



*Letter from Henry Simmons to Israel Chapin*

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DATE:	1799
LOCATION:	Swarthmore College
AUTHOR:	Henry Simmons (b. 1768)
SUMMARY:	Letter from Henry Simmons to Israel Chapin, written while living at Cornplanter's Village.

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Respected Friend,

Conisecotago 3<sup>d</sup>. Mo. 25<sup>th</sup>. 1799.

I have made free to Write a few Lines, and do inform thee, I have been Stationed during this Winter, at Cornplanters Village, about 9 miles from my two Companions, for the Exercise of Educating the Indian Children, not only in Liturual knowledge, but, also in other useful arts. It being the most Eligible place for the purpose, who improves as rapid as can be expected. Although at times (I do confess) my Occupation is very trying, and Exercising, even to my very Soul; Yet by the help of God? Do I hope to remain steadfast in the Faith, and in the discharge of my Duty. Business, where with I am called; not doubting the Lord's Providence over me, in the discharge of my Duty to Him, among the Natives of this Mountainous Country; far distant from my near & Dear Relations, and former Friends.

Be pleased to favour me with a few Lines, by the bearer, of information, respecting Oneida, whether their Mill is completed, and how many of our Society, at the present, are Stationed <sup>there</sup>, and whether Skeneedo, & Antony & Christian (the Principal Chiefs) are yet Living; and whether thou canst perceive any Alteration among them, for the better, Or whether they apprehends our Labour all Vain, which we have bestowed amongst them. I can truly say my mind is often Wafted over the Mountains, to Oneida, with an Eye of Compassion, towards the Natives there, with desires for their lasting Welfare.

I am in Heart, my affectionate Friend.

Israel Chapin

Henry Simmons Jun.

L. S. Cornplanter, informed me yesterday, they had lately received an Express, that their money had arrived at Canandaigua, and requested me to write to thee, on his behalf, in the following words, to shew thee the reasons of his not attending thither himself, (i. e.) He is not shure the Money is yet come, and he has understood, that the Buffalo Indians are desirous of holding the Council at their Village, which if it is, he knows there will be much Drunkenness among them, as it has hitherto been the case, which he does not want to see. And rather persues thee on that account, for not using thy Power, especially at such times, to suppress that Evil habit among them - He knows that if the Council is held there the Chiefs will hardly keep sober, and if they do not, he is certain they will be incapable of making a just division of the Money; which he thinks is his right, for as he has heretofore been called to all the Treaties or Business of Importance, and the Arduous part thereof have fell on his Shoulders &c. He wishes thee to know the number of People who are under his care, which is 362 Souls, Eight of whom he has sent for the Money, and two others to carry their Provisions, his own Son, I Strong, he wants thee to know the Sum of Money, in each man's Pack, that none may get lost, and desires thee to dispatch them as soon as practicable, and to have the oversight of them, whilst there, that they may not get Drunken. He also desires thee to send him Word by Letter, at the return of his people, how matters are Circumstances between him and Robert Morris, who he says respecting some small matters leturact them.

## Transcription

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