

build upon it, according to my Command: If the River was block'd up, I have Forces sufficient to burst it open, and tread under my Feet all that stand in Opposition, together with their Alliances; for my Force is as the Sand upon the Sea Shore: Therefore, here is your Wampum, I sling it at you. Child, you talk foolishly; you say this Land belongs to you, but there is not the Black of my Nail yours: I saw that Land sooner than you did, before the Shannoahs and you were at War: Lead was the Man that went down, and took Possession of that River: It is my Land, and I will have it, let who will stand up for, or say against it. I'll buy and sell with the English, (mockingly). If People will be rul'd by me, they may expect Kindness, but not else.

The Half King told me he enquired of the General after two Englishmen that were made Prisoners, and received this Answer,

Child, You think it is a very great Hardship that I made Prisoners of those two People at Venango, don't you concern yourself with it, we took and carried them to Canaca, to get Intelligence of what the English were doing in Virginia.

He informed me that they had built two Forts, one on Lake Erie, and another on French-Creek, near a small Lake about 15 Miles asunder, and a large Waggon Road between; they are both built after the same Model, but different in the Size; that on the Lake the largest; he gave me a Plan of them, of his own drawing.

The Indians enquired very particularly after their Brothers in Carolina Goal.

They also asked what Sort of a Boy it was that was taken from the South-Branch; for they had, by some Indians, heard, that a Party of French Indians had carried a white Boy by the Cascazia Town, towards the Lakes.

26th. We met in Council at the Long-House, about 9 o'Clock, where I spoke to them as follows,

Brothers, I have called you together in Council, by Order of your Brother the Governor of Virginia, to acquaint you that I am sent, with all possible Dispatch, to visit, and deliver a Letter to the French Commandant, of very great Importance to your Brothers the English; and I dare say, to you their Friends and Allies.

I was desired, Brothers, by your Brother the Governor, to call upon you, the Sachems of the Nations, to inform you of it, and to ask your Advice and Assistance to proceed the nearest and best Road to the French. You see, Brothers, I have got thus far on my Journey.

His Honour likewise desired me to apply to you for some of your young Men, to conduct and provide Provisions for us on our Way, and be a Safeguard against those French Indians who have taken up the Hatchet against us. I have spoke this particularly to you, Brothers, because his Honour our Governor treats you as good Friends and Allies, and holds you in great Esteem. To confirm what I have said, I give you this String of Wampum.

After they had considered some Time on the above, the Half King got up and spoke.

Now, my Brothers, in regard to what my Brother the Governor has desired of me, I return you this Answer.

I rely upon you as a Brother ought to do, as you say we are Brothers and one People: We shall put Heart in Hand, and speak to our Fathers the French concerning the Speech they made to me, and you may depend that we will endeavour to be your Guard.

Brother, as you have asked my Advice, I hope you will be ruled by it, and stay till I can provide a Company to go with you: The French Speech-Belt is not here, I have it to go for to my hunting Cabin; likewise the People which I have ordered in, are not yet come, nor can we till the third Night from this, till which Time, Brother, I must beg you to stay.

I intend to find a Guard of Mingos, Shannoahs, and Delawares, that our Brothers may see the Love and Loyalty we bear them.

As I had Orders to make all possible Dispatch, and waiting here was very contrary to my Inclination, I thanked him in the most suitable Manner: I could, and told him that my Business required the greatest Expedition, and would not admit of that Delay: He was not well pleased that I should offer to go before the Time he had appointed, and told me that he could not consent to our going without a Guard, for Fear some Accident should befall us, and draw a Reflexion upon him; besides, says he, this is a Matter of no small Moment, and must not be entered into without due Consideration; for now I intend to deliver up the French Speech-Belt, and make the Shannoahs and Delawares do the same: And accordingly he gave Orders to King Shingis, who was present, to attend on Wednesday Night with the Wampum, and two Men of their Nation to be in Readiness to set out with us next

Morning: As I found it was impossible to get off without affronting them in the most egregious Manner, I consented to stay.

I gave them back a String of Wampum that I met with at Mr. Frazier's, which they had sent with a Speech to his Honour the Governor, to inform him, that three Nations of French Indians, v. z. Chippeways, Ottoways, and Orundacks, had taken up the Hatchet against the English, and desired them to repeat it over again, which they postponed doing till they met in full Council with the Shannoahs and Delaware Chiefs.

27th. Runners were dispatched very early for the Shannoah Chiefs, the Half King set out himself to fetch the French Speech-Belt from his Hunting-Cabin.

28th. He returned this Evening, and came with Monocatocha, and two other Sachems to my Tent; and begged, (as they had complied with his Honour the Governor's Request, in providing Men, &c.) to know on what Business we were going to the French? this was a Question I all along expected, and had provided as satisfactory Answers to, as I could, and which allayed their Curiosity a little.

Monocatocha informed me, that an Indian from Venango brought News, a few Days ago, that the French had called all the Mingos, Delawares &c. together at that Place, and told them that they intended to have been down the River this Fall, but the Waters were growing cold, and the Winter advancing, which obliged them to go into Quarters: But they might assuredly expect them in the Spring, with a far greater Number; and desired that they might be quite passive, and not to intermeddle, unless they had a Mind to draw all their Force upon them, for that they expected to fight the English three Years, (as they supposed there would be some Attempts made to stop them) in which Time they should conquer, but if they should prove equally strong, that they and the English would join to cut them all off, and divide the Land between them; that tho' they had lost their General, and some few of their Soldiers, yet there were Men enough to reinforce them, and make them Masters of the Ohio.

This Speech, he said, was delivered to them by one Captain Joncaire their Interpreter in Chief, living at Venango, and a Man of Note in the Army.

29th. The Half-King and Monocatocha, came very early, and begged me to stay one Day more, for notwithstanding they had used all the Diligence in their Power, the Shannoah Chiefs had not brought the Wampum they ordered, but would certainly be in To night: if not, they would delay me no longer, but would send it after us as soon as they arrived: When I found them so pressing in their Request, and knew that returning of Wampum was the abolishing of Agreements; and giving this up, was shaking off all Dependence upon the French, I consented to stay, as I believed an Offence offered at this Crisis, might be attended with greater ill Consequence, than another Day's Delay. They also informed me that Shingis could not get in his Men, and was prevented from coming himself by his Wife's Sickness, (I believe, by Fear of the French) but that the Wampum of that Nation was lodged with Cusfaloga one of their Chiefs at Venango.

In the Evening late they came again and acquainted me that the Shannoahs were not yet come, but it should not retard the Prosecution of our Journey. He delivered in my Hearing the Speeches that were to be made to the French, by Jekakake, one of their old Chiefs, which was giving up the Belt the late Commandant had asked for, and repeating near the same Speech he himself had done before.

He also delivered a String of Wampum to this Chief, which was sent by King Shingis, to be given to Cusfaloga, with Orders to repair to the French, and deliver up the Wampum.

He likewise gave a very large String of black and white Wampum, which was to be sent up immediately to the Six Nations, if the French refused to quit the Land at this Warning; which was the third and last Time, and was the Right of this Jekakake to deliver.

30th. Last Night the great Men assembled to their Council-House, to consult further about this Journey, and who were to go; the Result of which was, that only three of their Chiefs, with one of their best Hunters, should be our Convoy: The Reason which they gave for not sending more, after what had been proposed at Council the 26th, was, that a greater Number might give the French Suspensions of some bad Design, and cause them to be treated rudely: But I rather think they could not get their Hunters in.

We set out about 9 o'Clock with the Half King, Jekakake, White Thunder, and the Hunters, and

travelled on the Road to Venango, where we arrived the 4th of December, without any Thing remarkable happening but a continued Series of bad Weather.

This is an old Indian Town, situated at the Mouth of French Creek on Ohio, and lies near N. about 60 Miles from the Logg-Town, but more than 70 the Way we were obliged to go.

We found the French Colours hoisted at a House which they drove Mr. John Frazier, an English Subject, from; I immediately repaired to it, to know where the Commander resided: There were three Officers, one of whom, Capt. Joncaire, inform'd me, that he had the Command of the Ohio, but that there was a General Officer at the near Fort, which he advised me to for an Answer. He invited us to sup with them, and treated us with the greatest Complaisance.

The Wine, as they dosed themselves pretty plentifully with it, soon banished the Restraint which at first appear'd in their Conversation, and gave a License to their Tongues to reveal their Sentiments more freely.

They told me, That it was their absolute Design to take Possession of the Ohio, and by G— they would do it; for that they were sensible the English could raise two Men for their one; yet they knew, their Motions were too slow and dilatory to prevent any Undertaking of theirs. They pretend to have an undoubted Right to the River, from a Discovery made by one La Sol 60 Years ago; and the Rise of this Expedition is, to prevent our settling on the River or Waters of it, as they have heard of some Families moving out in Order thereto. From the best Intelligence I could get, there have been 1500 Men on this Side Ontario Lake, but upon the Death of the General all were recalled to about 6 or 700, who were left to garrison four Forts, 150 or thereabouts in each, the first of which is on French Creek, near a small Lake, about 60 Miles from Venango, near N. N. W. the next lies on Lake Erie, where the greatest Part of their Stores are kept, about 15 Miles from the other Place, at the Falls of Lake Erie, where there is a small Fort which they lodge their Goods at, in bringing them from Montreal, the Place that all their Stores come from: The next Fort lies about 20 Miles from this, on Ontario Lake; between this Fort and Montreal there are three others, the first of which is near opposite to the English Fort Oswego. From the Fort on Lake Erie to Montreal is about 600 Miles, which they say requires no more, if good Weather, than four Weeks Voyage, if they go in Barks or large Vessels, but they can cross the Lake; but if they come in Canoes it will require 5 or 6 Weeks, for they are oblig'd to keep under the Shore.

5th. Rain'd excessively all Day, which prevented our Travelling. Capt. Joncaire sent for the Half King, as he had but just heard that he came with me: He affected to be much concern'd that I did not make free to bring them in before, I excus'd it in the best Manner I was capable, and told him I did not think their Company agreeable, as I had heard him say a good deal in Dispraise of Indians in general; but another Motive prevented me from bringing them into his Company; I knew he was Interpreter, and a Person of very great Influence among the Indians and had lately used all possible Means to draw them over to their Interest; therefore I was desirous of giving no Opportunity that could be avoided.

When they came in, there was great Pleasure express'd at seeing them; he wonder'd how they could be so near without coming to visit him, made several trifling Presents, and applied Liquor so fast, that they were soon render'd incapable of the Business they came about, notwithstanding the Caution that was given.

6th. The Half King came to my Tent, quite sober, and insist'd very much that I should stay and hear what he had to say to the French; I said I would have prevented his speaking any Thing, if he came to the Commandant; but could not prevail: He told me, that at this Place a Council Fire was kindled, where all their Business with these People was to be transacted, and that the Management of the Indian Affairs was left solely to Monsieur Joncaire. As I was desirous of knowing the Issue of this, I agreed to stay, but sent our Horses a little Way up French Creek, to rest over and encamp; which I knew would make it next Night.

About 10 o'Clock they met in Council; the King spoke much the same as he had before done to the General, and offer'd the French Speech Belt which had before been demanded, with the Marks of four Towns on it, which Monsieur Joncaire refused to receive; but desired him to carry it to the Fort to the Commander.

7th. Monsieur Joncaire, French Stores, and I to accompany us up: I could get the Indian Interpreter had been use with me: I had left Indian Interpreter at Town with me) first their Company, so my Tent (they have legs, to know the up the French Belt was obliged to send them, which he did At 11 o'Clock were prevented from excessive Rains, S through many Miles obliged to pass, to was impossible, either Water was so high We passed over Venango, and through rich Meadows on four Miles in Length some Places. [The Re

L O N D O N

AT a late Meeting of the annual Beneficent Society, Sir HANS SLOAN, Bart. (the General and Council) was judg'd to BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, for the care of his noble Fellow of the said noble President de greatly enhances the much Honour to strict Impartiality of a Person so de To be assur'd, that constant Regard w of useful Knowledge, city, to hear it d own narrow Circle, nerous Spirit of tru Men of all Countries selves of the same and that they will deserving, Tres Rus in the present Infla mulation among le they may hope for without Friend and born, or however who know Mr. F think such a Mar his successful End Lightoing, and the being one Day ables, to shield ourse but Genius is not know him as a M him for his Good h a modest affectio and all his stent be fully known in been long felt.

AN Extract of a Letter to his Friend in 1753. "This Nation of Peace and of seal of the late Jews, which, abroad; That much greater P did it might, casion'd a gen throughout the the Parliament tions and Deb seem'd to bring for it was mat of their Meeting went up to th Port, it seems Ministers, as made it his; which is, attend that never was wed, nor was