

Conference between Governor Burnet and the Indians.

[New-York Papers, Cc., 97–101.]

Propositions made by His Excellency William Burnet Esq^r Captain General & Governor in Chief of the Provinces of New York, New Jerseys & Territories thereon depending in America & Vice Admiral of the same &c to the five Nations to wit the Mohogs, Oneydes Onondages, Cayauges & Sinnekees in Albany 27 day of August 1722

PRESENT — His Excellency William Burnet Esq^{re} Captⁿ General & Gov^r in Cheif &c Of His Mat^{ys} Council of y^e Province of New York

Rip Van Dam

James Alexander

John Barbary

Lewis Morris

Cadwallader Colden

Commissioners of the Indian Affairs

Col P^r Schuijler

John Collins

Johannes Cuyler

Ph: Livingstone

P^r V Brugh

Joh^s Wendel

Evert Banker

Joh^s Becker

Interpreted by Lawrence Claese being first translated into Dutch by Robert Livingstone

Brethren

Our last meeting ended with so happy an Agreement & such firm assurances and hearty resolutions on both sides, that if they are faithfully observ^d we shall always meet with joyful countenances

You then promised me solemnly not to have any correspondence with the French, but to depend entirely on the English & cleave close to them

That you would keep the Path open for the Farr Indians to come to trade with this Province

That you would never molest Virginia nor any other of the Kings Provinces for the future & that you allowed it was in vain to promise any thing unless you resolve to perform [it]

I begin therefore by demanding of you a solemn assurance that you will continue firm to what you then engaged, that you will inform me truly of your principal late Transactions & designs & advice with me upon them so that I may be convinced that you have an

entire confidence in me & observe an exact Sincerity in your whole Conduct towards me which will be the strongest Tyes of a lasting Friendship between us — Give a Belt of Wampum

I must now particularly thank the Brethren, for their refusing to go out a fighting in Company with some French Indians, who invited them lately to it, this a very promising token of your good disposition, & makes me hope that you will satisfie me that the preparations you are making for going out to War are not contrary to your Promise made last year, give a Belt of Wampum

Because the renewing the Covenant Chain with you in the name of my great & good Master y^e King of Great Britain & your loving Father in the behalf of all His Mat^{ys} Provinces in North America, is the most solemn Act which we have together, I think it proper that it may be first diligently searched that there may be no spots or stains left upon it

For that Purpose I have first desired the Brethren to let me know how clean it has been kept with regard to this Province, and to the same end the Governors of Virginia & Pensilvania are come hither at the desire of the Brethren and with the advice and consent of this Government to treat of some matters on the behalf of their Provinces that may remove all spotts that may remain on the Covenant Chain with Relation to them & as they are one nation and under the same King with us I doubt not but the Brethren will hear them with great attention and answer them with that regard which is their due & when these particular Points are firmly settled, the General Covenant Chain will then be made so clean & bright that I shall then be able to renew it with the greatest Satisfaction & with a Strong confidence that it will shine with new Lustre as long as the sun & moon shall endure

A True Copy, examined
P^r PH LIVINGSTON, Sec^y
for the Indian Affairs

Answer made by the five Nations of Indians viz. the Maquase, Oneydes, Onnondages, Cayouges & Sinnekees to His Excell^{cy} William Burnet Esq^{re} Capⁿ General & Governor in Cheif of the Provinces of New York, New Jerseys, and Territories thereon depending in America & Viceadmiral of y^e same in Albany y^e first day of Sept^r 1722

PRESENT — His Excell^{cy} William Burnet Esq^{re} Captⁿ Gen^l & Gov^r in Cheif &c
Of His Majestys Council
Rip Van Dam
James Alexander
John Barbery
Coll Lewis Morris J^r
D^r Colden

Commissioners of Indian Affairs
Peter Van Brugh
Philip Livingston
Johannes Cuyler
Joh^s Wendel
Evert Banker.

Interpreted by Lawrence Claese into Dutch & rendred into English by Rob^l Livingston

Brother Corlaer

You made Propositions to us some days ago, which we are now some to answer, but since divers of our Sachims are not yet arrived, we shall not be able to answer so well as if those wise men were present with us and that we had consulted with them so that we hope your Excell^{cy} will excuse us if we answer not so fully & distinctly as otherwise we would if we had their assistance

Brother Corlaer

You told us that we in our last conference about a year ago had renewed the Covenant Chain & was desirous to know how the same has been kept by us in respect to this Province, it is so lately since that was done that the Sun is scarcely gone down since so that the Renovation is fresh in our Memory & we can assure you that we have kept the Covenant Chain inviolable on our Parts according to our Promise & engage to continue to do the same faithfully

It is now a year ago since you forbid us to have any correspondence with the French but to cleave to the English and we did then promise to obey your commands in that matter as we have actually done & do further promise solemnly that [henceforth] we will not correspond with the French of Canada but adhere & cleave strongly to the English

You told us the same time that we should give a free Passage to the Far Indians to come to this Place to Trade which we have done & give them all the encouragement & assistance that lays in our Power, & not only so but sent Agents to those Far Indians who trade with the French to invite them to come here to Albany, but our Agents are not yet returned & as soon as they come back shall give your Excellency an account of their answer

Brother Corlaer

We have told you that we have not only permitted y^e Farr Indians to come through our Country to trade in this Town but sent our agents thither to invite them & required them to tell the Far Indians that they should have goods very cheap. We therefore desire that the Traders may be ordered to let the Far Indians have good Penny worths, rather cheaper than we of the 5 Nations have it ourselves, which will be the only means to draw them and to induce them to come hither

Brother Corlaer

You did last year likewise charge & command us not to go a fighting towards Virginia,

not to pass over the great River of Patawmack, nor the Ridge of High Mountains that surround Virginia we have observed your commands to the best of our knowledge in that Particular Some of our People have been out a Warring against the Flatheads which of old have been our enemies, but they live to the Westward & Southward of Virginia & have not passed the Ridge of the Mountains nor the said River, we remember you also told us then, that it was in vain to make any promise, except we resolved firmly to keep it, which we have punctually done in this affair hitherto

Brother Corlaer

You likewise told us that if any matter of moment happened among us, that we should acquaint you therewith and take your advice which would be a sure token to show that we put our Trust & confidence in you which would be the strongest Tyes of a lasting Friendship between us, which we will do sincerely & truly & repeat to your Excell^{cy} again that we will communicate to you all the Principal late Transactions & matters of consequence that we are privy to both good & bad & thereupon gave a Belt of Wampum.

Brother Corlaer

We take notice that you thanked us for not suffering any of our Indians to go a Warring with the French Indians of Canada, we resolve to do the same for the future & dissuade any of our People to join with the French Indians to go to War, & if any of the French Indians should happen to come through our Country to go a warring we will endeavor to stop them, but if they cannot be persuaded then we will warn them not to go over the Great Ridge of Mountains that surround Virginia, nor to pass over the Great River called Potowmack

Brother Corlaer

You say that you are informed that there was a warlike Preparation making among the Five Nations which we acknowledge to be true but we know not as yet ourselves where they intend to go. Two years ago Two Tuskarores brought a Belt of Wampum from the Governor of Virginia (as they said) and thereby in the name of the Governor of Virginia desired the five Nations to make War & destroy the Tadirighrones,^[1] but being informed that the Governor of Virginia was to be at Albany we deferred any resolution about that affair, till we had spoken with him ourselves

Here they stopped, being late and growing dark desired that they may make their further answer on Munday which was agreed to but it happened to rain all Munday so that they did not meet together till Tuesday the 4th of September 1722, when the Sachims of the Five Nations proceeded to make their answer & said

Brother Corlaer

You have told us since our last conference on Saturday that you was informed some of our Sachims had been at Canada & treated with the Governor there, true it is that some of those Sachims y^l are now dayly expected with the Blawbek Cheif Sachim of y^e Sinnekees have been there & we will discover to you the contents of their conference which they had with the Governor of Canada as soon as they arrive

We inform you also that 3 companies of our People are gone out to fight against the Flatheads that have been our enemies of a long time there are also two French Indians that live at Cadarachqui that went out a fighting 2 years ago towards Virginia by the way of Cayouge, & have their abode among the Tuskaroes that live near Virginia & go backwards and Forwards

Brother Corlaer

We will now tell you the Resolution & Opinion of y^e 5 Nations that although diverse have endeavored to raise jealousies & evil Reports among us, & so perswade us to have a bad opinion of our Brethren the English yet we never would give ear nor hearken to them but have had from the first making of the Covenant Chain a firm Resolution to keep the same inviolable & we are resolved to persist in that Resolution always

Brother Corlaer

You have sent for us Sachims of the five nations to come here & told us that the Governors of Virginia & Pensilvania would be at Albany for which Message we are thankful & in your Propositions you acquaint us that they are come to treat of matters of Publick concern relating to Peace and Concord, we are come for the same purpose and have the same Intentions and put away all evil things and embrace that which is good & amicable did give Belt of Wampum

Brother Corlaer

We desire you not to be impatient because of the long stay of some of the Principal of the Sachims of the five Nations, which we hourly expect, but to be easy they are your bosom friend & we would fain have them here present before we give our final answer because the matters are of importance & we would gladly have their advice and Council do give 3 Skins

As we have earnestly desired your Excell^{cy} to have a little Patience so we beg the Honorable Coll: Alex. Spotswood, Governor of Virginia and the Hônble S^t William Keith Bart Governor of Pensilvania that they would be pleased to be easy & patient likewise, till these Cheif Sachims arrive being well assured that they will be extreamly glad to see you & the said two Governors. Gave 3 Skins to each of the Governors of Virginia & Pensilvania

His Excellency told them he had staid a long time for them & desired to know if they had any advice whereabouts they were, who answered that they had certain advice that five days ago the Blawbeck & his Company arrived at Oneyde

His Excellency ordered them to send an express immediately for them, since his affairs required him to be at New York & could not stay above 3 or 4 days more which the Sachims did accordingly

A True Copy, examined P^r
PH: LIVINGSTON Sec
for Indian Affairs

Propositions made to the River Indians as well the Skaghhook Indians as those that live below Albany by His Excell^{cy} William Burnet Esq^{re} Captⁿ Gen^l and commander in cheif &c in Albany the 30th day of Aug^t 1722

PRESENT — His Excellency William Burnet Esq^r Capⁿ General & Gov^r in Cheif &c

Of His Majestys Council

Rip Van Dam

D^r Colden

John Barberie

James Alexander

Coll Morris Jun^r

Commissioners of Indian Affairs

Coll Schuyler

John Collins

Pet^r Van Brugh May^r

Phillip Livingston

Joh^s Cuyler

Joh^s Bleecker

Evert Banker

Interpreted by Johannes Kickerbacker

Children

As often as we come to see y^e Frontiers, and to treat with the Indians, I send for my children the Mahikanders to assure them of my fatherly care and affection & I am glad to have this opportunity of renewing the ancient Covenant Chain which I do in a solemn manner in the name of the Great King my Master in the behalf of all His Subjects of North America, Which Chain of Friendship I am informed by the Inhabitants of this Place has been kept inviolable by your Ancestors from the first time that Christians settled here in this River & since you have always been obedient children & observed the commands of my Predecessors & been protected by this Government, I do assure you of the same Protection of the Great King, so long as you prove obedient children, which I do not in the least doubt, since you will always find it to be your Interest & Advantage

I need not tell you how destructive your Intemperence has proved and how much your people are diminish^d by your excessive drinking of Rum the Women as well as the men being guilty of being often drunck, let me advise you to be more sober for the future, and not to spend what you get by Hunting on strong drink, but lay it out on clothing and other necessaries for your support & above all not squander your Indian Corn for Rum which you ought to keep for your subsistence all the year

I shall conclude by telling you as long as you keep firm to your duty at all times to come, as you have in times past, you may rest assured not only of Protection but of all other

good offices in the Power of those that are in Authority under the King our common
Father & Protector, give a Belt

As soon as you have made your answer I will make you a Present of such things as are of
use to you

Answer of the Mahikanders or River Indians to His Excell^{cy} William Burnet Esq^{re} Captⁿ
Gen^l & Governor in Cheif of New York New Jersey &c in Albany y^e 31st Aug 1722

PRESENT — His Excellency William Burnet Esq^{re} Captⁿ Gen^l & Governor in Cheif &c

Of His Majestys Council

Rip Van Dam

D^r Colden

John Barberie

James Alexander

Coll Morris J^r

Commissioners of the Indian Affairs

Peter Van Brugh May^r

John Collins

John Cuyler

Phillip Livingston

Evert Banker

Joh^s Bleecker

Interpreted by Johannes Knickerbacker in Dutch & rendered into English by R^t
Livingston

Father

We are glad to see our in Health and that he is come to see us. We are come pursuant to
your commands to hear what you are pleased to require of us, we rejoice to hear that the
Great King of Great Britain both think of us & remember such a mean people as we are
to renew the Covenant Chain with us

We are come now to renew the Covenant Chain that has been of old between the
Christians of this Government & us, At first it was a Tye with our hands joined together,
but afterwards we were joined by a Covenant Chain which we now brighten & make
clear & clean, so y^t it can never be broken, Give a Belt of Wampum We now renewed &
brighten^d the Covenant Chain, but since a Chain is apt to rust, if it be not oiled or greased
we will grease it with Beavers grease or Fatt y^t the smell thereof will endure for a whole
year do give 2 Beaver Skins

Father

We look upon you as a great Tree under whose Branches we desire to shelter, and if there
should happen any sudden Tempest or Thunder Shower we hope we shall be admitted to

take shelter under y^t great Tree & be shadowed by the leaves thereof, that no drops may fall on us but y^t we may live in Peace and safety, Give a Belt of Wampum

We take you as a loving & tender Father & beg leave to inform you that some of our people that have been out a hunting to y^e Eastward have been taken Prisoners by y^e English of New England, but since his Excellency our Fathers arrival here, we have rec^d intelligence that they are released. We know not whether that account be true but hope & wish it may be so, Gave 3 Beavers

Father

As you have been an affectionate & loving Father to us your Children, so we hope if any mischeif should befall us, you will resent it & protect your children, and not suffer them to be injured we will not be rash to attempt any thing or too credulous to beleive any stories but first acquaint your Excell^{cy} our father & follow your advice & obey your orders Give 3 Beavers

Father

We are sensible that you are much in the right, that Rum does a great deal of Harm, we approve of all that you said on that Point, but the matter is this, When our people come from Hunting to the Town or Plantations and acquaint the Traders & People that we want Powder and Shot & Clothing, they first give us a large cup of Rum, and after we get the Taste of it crave for more so that in fine all the Beaver & Peltry we have hunted goes for drink, and we are left destitute either of Clothing or Ammunition, Therefore we desire our father to order the Tap or Crane to be shut & to prohibit y^e selling of Rum, for as long as the Christians will sell Rum, our People will drink it, do give 3 Beavers

Father

We acknowledge that our Father is very much in the right to tell us that we squander away our Indian Corn which should subsist our Wives & Children but one great cause of it is y^t many of our People are obliged to hire Land of the Christians at a very dear Rate, to give half the Corn for Rent & the other half they are tempted by Rum to sell, & so the Corn goes, y^t y^e Poor women & children are left to shift as well as the can do give 3 Beavers

(Ampamit Speaker.)

Father

We have no more Land the Christians when they buy a small spot of Land of us, ask us if we have no more Land & when we say yes they enquire the name of the Land & take in a greater Bounds than was intended to be sold them & the Indians not understanding what is writ in the Deed or Bill of Sale sign it and are so deprived of Part of their Lands — Give 3 Beavers.

Father

In former days when the Christians came to settle this Country they came with a ship & desired to fasten their Cable to the Hills near Hosak above Albany, which we readily granted & ever since we have lived in Friendship & Amity together, which we hope will

continue so long as Sun & Moon endure Gave 3 Beavers

His Excellency told the River Indians that he was well satisfied with their renewing the Covenant Chain & charged them to keep it inviolable to all the Subjects in North America & assured them if they behaved themselves well & did no injuries to the Christians, they needed not fear any harm done to them & if they suffered any Damage by any private Person they should complain & justice should be done to them as well as to the Christians

The Governor sees that they look better & are better cloathed than the other Indians that do not live among the Christians & therefore that they do well to stay among them He beleives they live better since the Christians bought & improved their Lands than they did before for then the Land lay waste & unimproved. His Excellency order^d them to divide the Presents that shall now be given them One half for the Indians that live above Albany & the other half for those that live below Albany

A true Copy, examin^d P^r
PHILIP LIVINGSTON, Sec^y
for the Indian Affairs

Further Propositions of His Excell^{cy} William Burnet Esq^{re} Captⁿ Gen^l & Governor in Cheif of the Province of New York &c to the 5 Nations of Indians, viz The Mohogs, Oneydes, Onnondages Cayouges & Sinnekees in Albany the 13 day of September 1722

PRESENT — His Excellency William Burnet Esq^{re} Captⁿ General & Gov^r in Cheif &c
The Honble Coll Alexander Spotswood Governor of Virginia
The Honble Sir William Keith Governor of Pensylvania

Of His Majestys Council
Rip Van Dam
John Barberie
Cadwallader Colden

Commissioners of the Indian Affairs
Pet^r Schuyler
Evert Bancker
Hend^r Hanse
Ph: Livingston
Joh^s Cuyler
John Collins
P^r Van Brugh
Joh^s Blecker

Brethren

The hearty concurrence with which you have received what I lately proposed to you in the behalf of this Province as well as the Propositions made to you by the Governors of

Virginia & Pensilvania has given us all so entire satisfaction, that we now appear together in the name of all the British Colonies, to shew you that as we are all subjects of the Great & Good King George, so we have all one heart & one mind, & that we are all jointly concerned in every thing that relates to one anothers security & happiness.

This brotherly love it is that is the peculiar distinguishing mark by which Men may know us to be Christians & by many expressions from you of the same strain I am inclined to hope you will deserve that honorable name, if you act up to your Promises, but since you have acknowledged that there is a God who will judge us accord^s to our Actions remember that he will punish us severely if we say one thing & do the contrary, & that not only in another life but in this we may expect that they who break their Faith will have the Frowns of Heaven upon them & they who keep it shall prosper and flourish & now since all Stains are entirely wiped off from the Covenant Chain and that you have resolved to be sincere for the time to come which is the only way to keep it bright & clean in conjunction with these Governors I do now solemnly renew it with you in the name of all his Mat^{ys} Provinces in North America, Give a Belt

Brethren

Since you tell me that you are determined to cleave close to all the English I doubt not of your being thoroughly incensed against the Eastern Indians who have lately attacked your Brethren under the Government of Boston and contrary to all their repeated [and] solemn Treaties and Engagements & their frequent submission to that Government have lately destroyed several of their Eastern Settlements, by taking their vessels, burning their Houses Killing their Cattle & cruelly murdering several of y^e Inhabitants which Insults were grown so intolerable, that that Government has at last been obliged to declare Warr against them as Traitors & Rebels

The Governor of Boston did some time ago acquaint me with the Injuries they had received from those Indians & then sent Commissioners with a noble Present which is still in this Town to inform you of it & desire you to interpose your good advice with those Indians in order to prevent a War. But as there was then no War actually declared, it was hoped that it would not come to that height as to require your interposing, and it was thought necessary that I should meet you first myself & know your intentions before any proposalls of that kind should be made to you & now that I find by conferences with some of you that you have no Engagements with those Indians & that you resent the outrage done to your Brethren the Christians as you ought to do, and since a War is now actually declar^d I think it necessary that without waiting for Commissioners from Boston, or any other delay you send a few Deputys from the 5 Nations to the Eastern Nations to let them know that you have heard with indignation how perfidiously they have treated your Brethren y^e English & that you require them forthwith to beg a cessation of arms of the Government of Boston in order to treat of a Peace which will be the only way for them to avoid the Anger and resentment of y^e five Nations who cannot look on unconcerned when their Brethren the English receive such barbarous Treatment, & because there is now war between them I have thought it the securest way for you to go by the way of Boston with a Christian to accompany you who shall carry a letter from me to the Governor of Boston & have a Passport to shew upon the road thither The Governor

of Boston will then send a party to conduct you safely to the Eastern Indians by which means you will be secure from any ill accident either through Malice or Mistake throughout your whole journey, And I do engage for that Government that they will give a handsome reward to the Messengers besides a noble Present to the 5 Nations when the Service is effected gave a Belt.

Brethren

We have made a new Law severer than that which was made last year to put an effectual Stop to the Trade from Canada for Indian Goods If any Indian can discover such Goods carrying to Canada he may seize and bring them to the Commissioners & if he can inform who is the owner of them, that Owner may by this last Law be obliged to discover the truth himself, and then the Indian will be entituled to receive one Hundred Pounds besides the goods — so that there is sufficient encouragement to you to stop that Path yourselves as far as relates to Indian Goods which is all that is prejudicial to you in the Canada Trade

I have for your further Encouragement and to carry on the Trade with the Farr Indians through your Country despatched Major Abraham Schuyler^[1] your old Friend to reside in the Sinnekees Country whom I dont doubt you will embrace as a brother and receive him in all your counsels especially when any French come among you that he may be ready to detect any false reports which they would endeavor to infuse into your people

I do not insist on your telling me particularly who have been in Canada contrary to your promises last year, but I am willing to draw a cover over your Past faults of every sort But if for the future any of your people go to Canada I will not look on those offenders any more as Brethren and I forbid them possitively to come hither for I hate to see any such double hearted Persons, & I expect that they never have any share of my presents but if the will be Frenchmen, let them go & be French men entirely, for they will but deceive and corrupt the good Brethren of the 5 Nations, by living with them & now before I part with you I must observe the ill consequence of bringing such a number of your young people hither whom you acknowledge that you cannot govern & who do great injuries to the Inhabitants, which has occasioned quarrels & mischeif, and obliges me to order some soldiers to walk round the Town, to hinder any injury to be committed by the Indians on the Inhabitants or by the Inhabitants on the Indians and that nothing like these disorders may happen for the future I do positively command you not to bring above 60 or 70 persons in all including Sachims Warriors young men & women when I send for you to meet at this Place I shall then be able to provide you plentifully with Provisions and such young people may be found to come along with you for whose good behaviour you may answer & upon this I give a Belt

This has been is great & solemn meeting and I hope it will never be forgott & that the Covenant Chain will now endure as long as the Rocks & mountains to which it is fastened

I now lay down my present that you may have no further occasion to keep your young men whom I will not permitt to stay longer here since they were guilty of such insolent

Practises last night and herewith command them to begin their march directly out of Town that no further disorder may happen & I expect you will send some of your wise men with them, leaving a sufficient number to answer me

A true Copy Exam^d
P^r PHILIP LIVINGSTON
Sec^y for the Indian Affairs

he Second Answer of the five Nations of Indians viz the Maquase, Oneydes, Onnondagues Cayouges and Sinnekees, to His Excellency William Burnet Esq^r Capⁿ General & Governor in Cheif of the Provinces of New York New Jerseys & Territories thereon depending in America & Vice Admiral of the same in Albany the 14th Sept^r 1722

PRESENT — His Excell^{cy} William Burnet Esq^{re} Captⁿ General & Governor in Cheif & The Hônble Coll Alexander Spotswood Governor of Virginia
The Hônble S^r William Keith Bart Governor of Pensilvania

Of His Majesty's Council
Rip Van Dam
John Barbery
D^r Colden

Commissioners of the Indian Affairs
Coll Peter Schuyler
Evert Banker
Peter Van Brugh
John Collins
Joh^s Cuyler
Joh^s Bleeker
Hend Hanse
Ph Livingston

Interpreted by Lawrence Claese into Dutch and rendered into English by Rob^t Livingston

Brother Corlaer

You have made Proposals to us yesterday which we will now answer as well as we are able you told us that this has been a great & solemn meeting, which we own having been made with Your Exell^{cy} the Governors of Virginia & Pensilvania & we acknowledge that if these Treaties now concluded, be well observed by both parties it will be a great Happiness to our children & Childrens Children as for our parts we are resolved to keep & maintain whatever has been concluded now, & stipulated between us all & shall imprint it on our Posterity to be by them kept inviolable for ever

Brother Corlaer

We will answer the Principal Heads of your Propositions made to us yesterday you

renewed the Covenant Chain in Conjunction with the two other Governors of Virginia & Pensilvania, in y^e behalf of all the English Colonies of North America all which we do in like manner in the behalf of the five Nations & do resolve to keep and maintain the same for ever and if there be any spots or Stains thereon or any Rust come upon it [we do now wipe off the same and brighten it that] it may be clear and lasting to all future ages

Brother Corlaer

When the Christians first came to this Country our Ancestors fastened the ship that brought them behind a Great Mountain with a Chain in order to secure the same which mountain lyes behind the Sinnekees Country, so that the one end of the Chain, being fastened there and the other end at y^e Ship, if any body would steal away & molest this ship the chain will jingle & make a noise & so alarm all the 5 Nations who are bound to defend this ship & this is the foundation & original of the Covenant Chain among the 5 Nations, which our ancestors made, which was to preserve this ship from any harm gave a Belt of Wampum.

Brother Corlaer

You acquainted us yesterday how villanously & barbarously the Eastern Indians had fallen upon our Brethren the English of New England & murdered y^e people for which we are much concerned and sorrowfull and according as you require in your Proposition we have pitch^d upon an Indian of each nation to go to Boston & so to be conducted to the Eastward & acquaint those Indians with what indignation we heard of their base Treatment of our Brethren & command them to beg peace of the English of New England and since we have not a Belt to give in return for that Belt you gave us upon this Proposition, we intend to make use of that Belt you gave us yesterday to the Eastern Indians when we communicate to them our Intentions that we can not look unconcerned when our Brethren of New England receive such barbarous Treatment

Brother Corlaer

You told us yesterday that we were not to go to Canada or have any correspondence with them, but those that would go thither, they might stay there for altogether, and not return to deceive and corrupt the 5 Nations, but we remember it has been recommended to us formerly to have Peace & amity with all People, even the farr Indians that are in Friendship with the French & to draw them to come & Trade in this Government and accordingly we have followed that advice & the French being in Alliance with the English & in Peace we hope it may not be of any ill consequence if at any time some of our People went thither to retain that good understanding y^t is among us. As long as none goes thither to betray their country nor their Allies, since it is Common & the Practice every where when Nations are in Peace & Amity with one another to go & visit each other for if we should wholly refrain from going thither, would it not be of bad consequence to us some time or other therefore we hope it will not be ill taken if sometimes some of our People should go thither

Brother Corlaer

As to your Excellency's Proposals yesterday relating to the severe Law made prohibiting the sending Indian goods to Canada, & what encouragement is given to any person

whatever who should discover the same, in answer to which we say, that we will not concern ourselves any ways in y^t affair. We are peaceable People & inclined to Peace & if we should intermeddle in any such matter, we should but create ourselves a great many enemies & therefore desire to be excused

As to the Proposition relating to our People coming in such great numbers here, when any publick affairs are to be transacted, we own it is of bad consequence, as we find by experience, by mischeif done by our ungovernable young men, both in Town & Country & therefore we accept very kindly & approve of what you propose of sending no more in the whole but 60 or 70 Persons or such a number as the Messenger shall acquaint us withall, when he comes to call down the 5 Nations to treat here at Albany & thereupon gave a Belt of Wampum

Lastly say Brother Corlaer

We have told you at large the first settlement of the Christians here & how at first we traded together & afterwards made the Covenant Chain & how cheap we had goods at first & how much dearer we pay for the same sort of Goods now & moreover that the Powder is not only dear but bad y^t we cannot kill the Peltry with [it] which is the Christians Dammage as well as ours — We have heard that our Great King George is a very good Man & our friend and sends that which is good but we are afraid that our Brethren the Christians that live here do abuse us when they Trade with us, hope there may be some method found out to prevent it

His Excellency the Governor made them a short Answer viz

Brethren

There is occasion to answer some things that you have said to me tho' the most Part is what I like very well

The reason why I have advised you against trading with the French is because they cheat you always & take advantages in time of Peace in order to weaken you by advising you to warr against the English Indians, that when a war breaks out you may be an easy prey to them

It is the Handlers or Traders that furnish you with Goods, and if they give you too little the Government can't help it, but you know that the French are still harder upon you, and sell goods much dearer & if you don't stop the Path to Canada as I advised you it is your own faults that Goods are not cheaper for if that Trade be stopped there will be more goods to be sold to you and at more reasonable Rates

I insist upon it that those who go to Canada do not come hither or receive any part of my Presents to you for y^e future

NOTE The words in the preceding Conference within [] are added from *New-York Council Minutes*, XIII. — ED.

Conference between Governor Spotswood and the Five Nations.

[New-York Papers., Cc., 102–104.]

Propositions made to the Five Nations of Indians to wit the Maquase, Oneydes, Onondages Cayouges & Sinnekees, by His Excell^{cy} Alex: Spotswood Esq^{re} Governor of His Maty^s Dominion of Virginia in Albany y^e 29 Aug 1722

PRESENT — His Excell^{cy} Alex: Spotswood Esq^{re} Governor of Virginia
Coll Nathaniel Harrison Esq^{re} of His Majestys Council of Virginia
Coll William Robinson Esq^{re} a Member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia

Interpreted by Lawrence Claese after it was translated into Dutch by Rob^l Livingston

Sachims & Warriors of y^e 5 Nations

You often say that your Covenant Chain with Virginia is grown rusty, & have urged of late years, that some Commissioners from that Colony should be sent to this Place to brighten the same

This is an old Story which the People of Virginia remember to have been continually rung in their ears & are sensible that none of the many Treaties which they have made for near fifty years past have ever been long observed on the Part of the 5 Nations Wherefore I am now come hither as Governor of Virginia accompanied by some members of that Government in order to try if our Covenant Chain cannot be so polished as never more to grow rusty & to endeavor at establishing an everlasting Peace between your People and ours comprehending not only the Christian Inhabitants of Virginia but also the several Nations of Indians belonging to and subject to that Government & according to the custom of this Place, I signify to you this Proposition by giving 2 Belts of Wampum, y^e one for the Government of Virginia & the other for all its tributary Indians

Nothing but your assuredly promising (as you did here last year to your Governor) that you would agree to the Preliminary Articles offered by Virginia could have perswaded that Government to send hither to treat with you and therefore before I enter upon any other matter, I expect you to ratify & confirm that principle article which you have declared that you will faithfully observe If I take care that our Indians perform the same on their Part Viz "That the great River of Potowmak & the High Ridge of Mountains which extend all along the Frontiers of Virginia to the Westward of the present Settlements of that Colony shall be for ever the established Boundaries between the Indians subject to the Dominion of Virginia & the Indians belonging to and depending on the 5 Nations: So that neither our Indians shall on any pretence whatsoever pass to the Northward or Westward of the said Boundaries without having to produce a Passport, under the Hand and Seal of the Governor or Command^r in Cheif of Virginia nor your Indians pass to the Southward or Eastward of the said Boundaries without a Passport in like Manner from the Governor or Commander in Cheif of New York"

Now not only our Indians have given us solemn assurances of their keeping within the prescribed Limits but we have also by this act of Assembly taken such measures for their due performance of the same that the Government of Virginia undertakes and engages for their nations in this Particular, so that nothing remains but that the 5 Nations ratifie & confirm the said Article, which I expect should be done in a Solemn manner not only by their Sachims but also by all their Warriors here present & for that purpose *I offer you this fine Coronet* as a singular Token to be held up in the Presence of all who are upon this occasion assembled, by that Person whom you shall appoint to declare the General Assent of the 5 Nations to this Proposition and let all your People Present at the same time give a shout to be taken as a Signal Testimony of their Concurrence besides I will have it signed by your Sachims & myself before I will either propose or present you with any thing further on the part of Virginia

A True Copy examined
P^r P: LIVINGSTON
Secretary for the
Indian affairs

Answer of the five Nations of Indians viz the Maquase Oneydes, Onnondages, Cayouges & Sinnekes to His Excell^{cy} Alex^r Spotswood Governor of His Mat^{ys} Dominion of Virginia, in Albany y^e 6th day of Sept^r 1722

PRESENT — His Excellency Alexander Spotswood Esq^r Governor of Virginia
Coll: Nathaniel Harrison a Member of His Maty^{ys} Council of Virginia
Coll William Robinson a Member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia

Interpreted by Lawrence Claese into y^e Dutch language & rendered into English by
Robert Livingston

We the Sachims of the five Nations, The Mohogs, Oneydes, Onnondages Cayouges & Sinnekees, together with the Tuscarores are come here upon His Excell^{cy} the Governor of New Yorks message

We have heard the Proposition of the Governor of Virginia with great attention & considered it very maturely, but before we answer we must impart what our ancestors have done with respect to this Government

When the Christians first came here, they came in a great ship, & we were glad of their coming & fastened the Ship behind a great Tree & our business then was trading and Merchandize

And considering the benefit thereof & that the Tree to which the Ship was fastn^d might rot, & so let the Ship go we carried the Anchor behind a great Mountain, that so we might keep it forever, and it was we that desired the Christians to come to settle among us & not they

The third thing that was done by the Christians & our Ancestors, after they understood one another was to enter into a Covenant of Friendship which they called the Covenant Chain & to the best of our Knowledge that Covenant has been kept by both parties from that time to this, And both our Ancestors were so prudent that they stipulated and agreed that if any bad accidents or mischeif should happen on either side it should be forgot & forgiven and not make a Breach in y^e Covenant Chain

Brother Assarigoe

When the neighbouring Governments of Virginia & Pensilvania and New England found how well we agreed they were glad to link their Hands in the same Covenant Chain & there were two Places Viz Albany & Onnoudague appointed to meet at & to settle a right understanding in case any mischief should happen of either side

Brother Assarigoe

We will not make any further mention of these old Stories of what Our Ancestors did but will now come to the Point & answer your Propositions & the hope if our answer should not be given with that respect & regard which is your due you will excuse us

Brother Assarigoe

You told us some days ago that the five Nations say that y^e Covenant Chain which was made betwixt us, & Virginia fifty years ago is grown rusty & that we did not long keep or observe the Condition of it & you have forbid us to pass the Southside of the Great River Kahongoronton which you call Potowmack or to the East side of the great Ridge of Mountains which extend all along the Frontiers of Virginia

In the first place we agree to this Article & faithfully promise not to pass over the great River Kahongoronton which the English call Potowmack nor the great Rid[g]e of Mountains which extend along your Frontiers we are glad to find you are come here to renew the Peace as well in the behalf of the Christians as y^e Indians of Virginia We wish you had brought some of y^e Sachims of your Indians that they might have spoke to us face to face & have put their hands into the Covenant Chain, but since you are come here we agree to accept what you offer in their behalf in the same manner as if they were present, and tho' there is a Nation amongst you, the Toderechrones (Christian Indians^[1]) against whom we have had so inveterate an enmity, that we thought it impossible it could be extinguished, but by a total Extirpation of them, yet since you desire it we are willing to receive them into this Peace & to forgive all that is past

It has pleased God to make you Christians & us Heathens but we hope we shall both act according to our capacities & be faithful to our resp^{iv}e Promises & engagements, Some are placed in High Stations & some in low, but there is one above who rules and Governs all & will judge us according to our Actions

We hope you will observe that your Indians which you have engaged for, perform what you have promised for them That they shall not pass to the Norward of the River Kahongaronton, nor to the Westward of the Great Ridge of Mountains & as you gave us two Belts one from the Christians & the other from the Indians of Virginia so we give

you two Belts one for your Christians & the other for your Indians

It is some time agoe since you made this Proposition to us & you must not take it amiss that we have not answered you before, It was a thing of great importance & fit to be well considered, and it is now agreed not only by all our Sachims, but also by all our Warriors as well those which are absent as those which are present

You have told us that we may pass the great River Kahongoronton & the Great Ridge of Mountains provided we have a Passport from the Governor of New York and we promise you again, not to pass to the Southward or Eastward of the said Boundaries without such a Passport

You told us after this you had something further to propose, relating to the General Peace which we hope you will now speak sincerely without Dissimulation

You told us you had a Coronet, which you would have held up by our speaker & that at the same time we should make a shout as a token of our consent to this Article which we are now ready to do

And we are now ready since you told us you were not satisfied with our words in this matter of consequence to sign your Propositions in the most publick manner

All which was performed accordingly & the Speaker of the Five Nations holding up the Coronet they gave six Shouts five for the five Nations & one for a castle of Tuscarores lately seated between Oneyde & Onnondage

And a Memorandum was made under the Propositions of the Governor of Virginia importing that one the sixth day of September 1722 the Sachims & Warriors of the five Nations together with divers cheifs of the Tuscarores made their answer by Ondaghsighte a Sachim of Oneyde their Speaker Chosen for that purpose & did solemnly declare the assent of the whole 5 Nations including the Tuscarores & fully agreed to the said Propositions relating to the Peace & Boundaries & that in Testimony thereof they held up the Coronet & signed these Propositions

A True Copy Examined
P^r PH: LIVINGSTON Sec^y for
the Indian Affairs