

of the Six Nations well disposed & properly authorized to speak to these Nations would certainly be of utility, as the sooner the Hatchet can be taken out of their hands with propriety the better; and the disposition of the People of Kentucky known, whom the Indians seem under great apprehensions of—some of their Parties having been on this side of the Ohio not long ago. The Indians are still in great expectation of receiving their usual supplies, should they be disappointed they will be convinced in the opinion that they are to be cast off when their service is no longer required. I hope for the general good this may not be the case. I shall wait some days longer here in order to transact any material business should it arrive from you.

[signed] A. MCKEE.

SHAWANESE TOWN }  
 May 24h 1783 }  
 Major De Peyster }

Endorsed:—Copy of a Letter  
 from Alexander  
 McKee Esq. to  
 Major De Peyster  
 dated at Shawanese  
 Town 24h May 1783.

[B 103, p 188]

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GEN. FREDERICK HALDIMAND TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON

QUEBEC 26h May 1783.

SIR,

Since my last letter to you I have conferred at large with Colonel Claus and Joseph Brant upon the expediency of settling such of the Six Nations Indians on the North Side of Lake Ontario and River Niagara, as shall prefer that situation to the wish of risk of returning to their former settlements now subject to the Americans and it gives me pleasure to find that Joseph so readily adopts the Plan. Uncertain when I shall receive Instructions from Home upon this interesting subject and finding that the Indians are become very impatient of and discontented with their present situation, and as I am informed by Joseph they are in daily expectation of receiving Proposals from the United States, I have come to a resolution to send off Major Holland, the Surveyor General, to Cataraqui to examine that Place and Country upwards, and if he should find them favorable to my view, He is to make application at Carleton Island for assistance to make a Beginning, He goes properly prepared, in every respect for this business and altho' other Duty will Oblige Him to return before it can be accomplished. He will leave it in such a Train as to have it effectually per-

formed, and such a Report procured as will enable me to decide with certainty upon the success of the measure. Wishing that Joseph may, from Personal Knowledge & Observation have it in his Power to make a faithful Report to the Indians of what is doing in this matter and give his opinion of what it is likely to turn out I have desired him with a few Mohawks of his own desiring to accompany Major Holland to Cataraqui and in the mean time, agreeably to my Letter of the 22nd Inst. I wish you without delay, to proceed to Niagara to quiet the apprehensions of the Indians, by convincing them that it is not the Intention of Government to abandon them to the Resentment of the Americans. Joseph will deliver to you my answer to the Speech He brought in behalf of the Six Nations, which you will please to communicate to them on your arrival at Niagara, with whatever speech may be proper from yourself upon the occasion. Upon Reconsideration of Joseph's Speech by Him & Col. Claus, they have made some alterations which the Colonel will communicate to you.

Altho' the Indians resorting to Michilimackinac are of less consequence, and out of the power of the Americans, you would do well to send up Mons<sup>r</sup> Calvé<sup>1</sup> (who is well known and of Influence there) with a speech to them importing that altho the King has found it necessary to put an end to so expensive & tedious a war, for the sake of his more Domestick Subjects, and to separate them from the Americans—He still considers his faithful Indian Allies as his children and will continue to promote their Happiness by his Protection, and permission of their usual Intercourse with Traders, with all other Benefits in his Power to afford them. It will also be necessary that you send a speech of the same nature to Detroit to quiet as much as possible, the apprehensions of the Indians in that Quarter—And you will remain at Niagara in expectation of further Instructions concerning the Indians in this present critical situation, which from the letters I wrote last Autumn I have every reason to expect and which I shall not lose a moment in communicating to you.

I am Sir &c.

[Signed] F. HALDIMAND

Endorsed: Copy 1783

To

Brig. Genl. Sir John Johnson

May 26h

[B 115, p 113]

<sup>1</sup>Joseph Calvé was a trader among the Sauks and Foxes before the Revolution and had great influence over the Indians of the North. Joseph Calvé of St. Louis, Mo., was probably a nephew of the trader. See Billon, *Annals of St. Louis*, p. 199 and Vol. IX this series.