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On the contrary you have been kindly and benevolently permitted by the State of New York to remain in the midst of her people, on a portion of your lands sufficiently large for all your wants and purposes, the title to which is solemnly guaranteed to you by the States of New York and Massachusetts, and by the Government of the United States, and of which you can never be deprived, under your present form of Government, but by your own act. The State has thrown around your people, every protection that the strong arm of her civil laws can give, to secure you from any external disturbance of your peace, prosperity and well-being. The State is also aiding Nations internally, in your advancement in civilization and enlightenment, by imparting to your children the blessing of education. According to the published report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington, there are fifteen schools on the Cattaraugus and Alleghany Reservations, with an average attendance of nearly three hundred Indian children. The salaries of these teachers who are generally of the first class, are paid by the State, and the State also provides Text Books and Stationery. "The advancement made by the people," he says "is very gratifying to all who feel interested in Indian civilization."

The Commissioner also gives the further gratifying information showing your prosperity under your present form of Government, that you have about 15,000 acres of land under cultivation, upon which, in the year 1863, were produced, 19,000 bushels of wheat; 26,300 bushels of corn; 28,500 bushels of oats; over 1000 tons of hay; over 4,000 bushels of apples; and a considerable surplus of Potatoes, Vegetables, and in addition to these have made 3500 pounds of sugar. The Commissioner justly remarks, your advanced condition "indicates" the capacity of the Red Race for indefinite moral and intellectual improvement."†

Now shall all this be lost by disagreement and discord among your people? Shall the evidence so valuable to the Indians every where, which the Seneca of New York have so strikingly given, that the Indians may safely and advantageously be permitted to remain on their lands in the midst of a community of white people, and be prosperous and happy, be lost entirely to your race at this day, by your contentions among yourselves? We hope and trust not. We hope you will retain, ever tenderly in practical remembrance, the remarks addressed to

† 1863 page 282 + 1864 page 26 ‡ Report for 1864 page 29

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you by Commissioner Manypenny, who was your true friend, when he went to you many years ago. He impressively advised you "not to become unsettled; and to live in peace and harmony among yourselves; to cultivate your lands; to be industrious and frugal; and avoid intemperance, and educate your children." He thought you were in a fair way to solve the problem whether the Indians can be civilized in their communities, and if you persisted in your efforts and succeeded, you would be the means of saving thousands of your race in the West, now degraded in ignorance. Philanthropists seeing your success would be encouraged to exert their efforts to rescue your race from destruction. Tender will be your words. They contain great truths, and imply justly, a consequence to your actions extending far beyond your own Nation which it becomes your duty to consider.

We desire, most ardently, that you may remember your privileges and blessings, and manifest your gratitude to the Great Spirit for His mercies and favors to you by living in kindness, peace and love, and being a united people. As we have advised you, "do not upon any consideration, get divided into parties, and be influenced by party feeling, and a party spirit. This will greatly injure you. Check the desire for office, and jealousy of your officers. Live in harmony and love, and the blessing of the Great Spirit will rest upon you."

On the 5th of the present month it was 16 years since your written Constitution, and Republican form of Government was adopted; and that period has been marked by far greater prosperity and advancement in civilization and enlightenment among your people than any previous period of equal duration in your history. It has been the transient joy to have a new system of Government, like a new shoe, is most oppressive and painful at first. After a little use, all becomes harmonious and easy. Persevere then in traveling the road which thus far has proved so prosperous, and which furnishes such great advantages to you, and to your race elsewhere. We believe what Commissioner Dole said in his recent letter to the President of your Nation: — "To resume again your old form of arbitrary, if not irresponsible, Government by Chiefs, would certainly be a long step backward in the path of civilization." We think it would be, on a path, the same which had arisen high, to show and only show Indians, should go suddenly down again in the morning, leaving all in uncertainty and gloom. Farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Committee on the Indian Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives on the 14th day of 12th Mo 1864.
Prof. Walter de la Harpe, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, U.S. Indian Office, Washington.