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10/12/1761

A Message from the Governor to the Chief of of the Munsey Indians at Assunpsing. Or to the Three Munsey Indians now at Wyoming, being the Kinsmen & Relations to the Indian lately killed near Fort Allen in Northampton County. to be delivered and distinctly explained to them by Mr Isaac Greenleaf & Mr Isaac Jones or either of them.

Brothers/ By this string I wipe your Eyes, that You may see clearly, and open your Ears, that You may listen attentively to what I am about to say to You. a String.

Brothers/ Some little time after the late Treaty at Easton in the Month of August last, I was much grieved to hear, that an Indian Man, in his return from that place, was unfortunately killed by a white man, One of our People.

As soon as I was informed of this bad News, I order'd the Man who had committed the Fact to be taken up and put into Prison, where he now is, and shall remain, until the matter can be particularly enquired into and tryed by our Laws, in the same manner as if He had killed One of our own people.

Brothers, I will tell you, in few words, All that I yet know with certainty relating to this unfortunate accident.

The Indian was found dead, near the House of the person who is now in prison on that account. — This Man does not deny that he killed him; But says, in his own Justification, that he was obliged to do it in defence of his Wife and Children, whom the Indian was about to murder with his scalping knife: after coming, several times before, to his house in the Night time, disturbing him and using him very ill. — notwithstanding, that at all those times, he had been very kindly and civilly treated and entertained by him —

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Brothers

If what this Man says be true, I believe You yourselves will be of Opinion, that He was not to blame, and that he did no more than You would have done in the like circumstances, or if You had stood in his place. — For No One, whether Indian or White-Man, could, or ought to sit still, and see his Wife and Children murdered before his Face without striving to prevent it; even at the hazard of killing the person who attempts it.

But if, on the contrary, it shall appear in the Kings Court, where this Man shall be fairly tryed, that what He says is false & untrue, and that He killed the Indian wantonly or maliciously, and not in defence of himself, or of his Wife and Children; He shall, in that case, suffer the same punishment as if He had murdered One of Us: which punishment, by our Laws, is Death.

Brothers

I have been informed that you came from home with an intent to take revenge of the English, for the Blood of your Kinsman which has been unhappily spilt; And that, in all probability, You would have proceeded to have done much mischief, had You not been prevailed on by Papoonan and our other good Friends at Wighcousin, to wait till You should hear from me.

Brothers

If this was your intention, I must needs tell you, that You were by much too hasty, and greatly in the wrong; and that You would have been very sorry afterwards, for any mischiefs You had done to us in the heat of your passion and resentment.

You should first have applied and made your complaint to me, before You had resolved on revenging the death of your Relation, on people who were entirely innocent of it. — Had You taken this method, You might have been assured, that according to the constant practice of this Government, I should have done you all the Justice, and made You the best reparation that was in my power.

Hearken therefore to my words, and give Credit to what I say to You, for I speak from the bottom of my heart.

Brothers

Your Forefathers and Ours, who were wise Men, whenever wicked persons on either side committed any mischief, made it a rule to acquaint Each other of it as soon as possible; and joined together in detecting and punishing

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punishing the Evil-Doers. without breaking out, on every occasion, into acts of Hostility, to revenge any supposed injuries they might have received. — By this means, their Friendship and affection for Each other grew stronger, and they continued to live together in Harmony as Brethren.

I am now pursuing this Rule on my part, and I hope and expect, that on all future occasions, You will do the same, on yours. — I once more promise you, that the person who killed your Relation, shall be fairly tryed according to our Laws, and punished if he be found delinquent.

In the mean time, as Accidents of this kind, are not uncommon, & whenever they do happen are full as grievous to me as to you, there is no reason that they should break, or even disturb, the peace, which at present so happily subsists between us. — I have promised that You shall have justice done you, and will fullfil that promise. And being perswaded that You neither expect or desire any more, I am in hopes, that upon your hearing and understanding this Message from me, You will quietly return to your own homes, and think no more of satisfying an unjust revenge on persons in no wise guilty of, or accessory to the death of your Relation:

a Belt

Brothers

I have nothing further to say at present, but that I most heartily condole with You for the death of your Kinsman and Friend;

With this Belt therefore, I collect his Bones together and bury them in One Grave.

a Belt

With these Strouds I fill up his Grave, and cover his Body.

Strouds.

With these Handkerchiefs I wipe off the blood from your Bodies, and wipe away the Tears from your Eyes.

Handkerchiefs.

With this Belt I take all sorrow from your Hearts, I clear your throats, Eyes, and Ears, and desire You will mourn for him no more.

a Belt

October 12° 1761

James Hamilton

Message to the Min.ters

12.° Oct.r 1761.