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MISSISSINIWAY TREATY.

(Camp near the mouth of the Mississineway, on the Wabash, October 23, 1826.)

Sir:—Accompanying this, we have the honor to transmit to you the treaty which we concluded with the Pottawatamies on the 16th inst. and that which was concluded with the Miamies on this day.

These treaties have been the result of a long and tedious negotiation, in which every exertion was used to procure a cession on the most reasonable terms for the United States, and we are confident in the opinion that the object could not be obtained without assenting to the stipulations which are found in the instruments.

It is difficult to ascertain the precise boundary of Indian claims. The lines of demarcation between the different tribes are not distinctly established, and in fact, their title rests more on possession than prescription. The tribes are frequently intermingled, and each has sometimes a common interest in the same district of country. North of the Wabash, the Miamies and Pottawatamies are in this condition. At the treaty of

the right of the former tribe to the country on the Wabash and its tributaries was recognized, but time and subsequent circumstances have materially affected this arrangement. At the treaty of St Marys, in 1818, it was considered important to procure a cession from the Pottawatamies of the country south of the Wabash, and the entire cession from the Vermillion to the Tippecanoe was made by that tribe. And it seemed to be generally admitted by both of these tribes, that there was a common and undefined interest in the country north of the Wabash.—These circumstances rendered it proper to treat with the Miamies and Pottawatamies for the whole tract to be purchased, in order as well to do justice by them, as to prevent a resort to hostilities, the usual arbiter of Indian disputes.

In treating however with the Pottawatamies, we are sensible that their title to the most valuable section of the country was not as valid as that of the Miamies. And therefore, the consideration paid to them is much less than that paid to the others. The annuity is comparatively small and limited, and the sum appropriated for the purpose of education is determinable at the pleasure of Congress. The amount of the other stipulations for blacksmiths, &c. is inconsiderable, and the objects themselves are such as are important to the Indians, and cannot be indifferent to the Government.

Goods have been distributed to them, as will appear by the fourth article of the treaty, to the amount of thirty thousand five hundred and forty-seven dollars seventy-one cents, and an additional quantity of nine hundred dollars have been promised them. Without this provision no treaty could have been formed. The Indians always arrive at our treaty grounds poor and naked. They expect to receive some part of the consideration at the moment of signing the treaty. This expectation in fact, furnishes the only motive for their attendance, and much the most powerful motive for their assent to the measures proposed to them. A reduction in the annuity is effected by these payments, much greater in value than the amount distributed. The sum appropriated for these treaties, fifteen thousand dollars, was certainly intended to defray the necessary expenses attending the convocation of the Indians, and the general business of the negotiation. It could not have been expected that any part of the consideration given for the land, should be met from this fund. It was barely sufficient, with the most rigid economy to pay the actual claims for services and supplies, essential to the subsistence of the multitude assembled here, to the preservation of the necessary police, and to the successful result which we have ultimately attained.

Under these circumstances, no resource was left us, but to purchase goods upon the credit of the negotiation, providing for their payment by the United States, if the treaty should be ratified, and by the Indians, if the ratification should be withheld. Proper invoices and certificates of these purchases have been prepared, and contingent drafts have been drawn on the department, payable after an appropriation shall be made for that purpose. A schedule of these drafts, dated the 18th inst. accompanies this letter. To them are annexed the invoices, which will fully explain the nature of the supplies which have been furnished.

Provision has been made for the payment of certain claims against the Pottawatamies amounting to the sum of \$9 573.

These claims have been agreed to at

the particular request of the tribe, and the claimants are exclusively Indian traders, whose property and services have been scattered through the whole Indian country. Considerable deductions have been made from all of them, and the Pottawatamies are anxious for their payment, as well to be relieved from the pressure of these debts, as to procure such credits hereafter as their necessities may require.

Lands have been granted to various individuals, as will appear by the subjoined schedule, which exhibits the extent and situation of these tracts. Almost all these persons are of Indian descent, and the few who are not so are connected with them by early association, by trade, or by other circumstances. And all these grants have been inserted at the particular request of the Indians, and most of the grantees have materially aided us during the negotiation. In order to guard any imputations, we have inserted a provision that any of these names may be expunged from the treaty. But we trust that it will not be found necessary for the Senate to exercise this power. Confident expectations are indulged by the Indians and the persons interested, that these grants will be confirmed, and they in fact constitute an integral part of the consideration for the cession.

It was impossible to procure the assent of the Pottawatamies or Miamies to a removal west of the Mississippi. They are not yet prepared for this important change in their situation. Time, the destruction of game, and the approximation of our settlements are necessary before this measure can be successfully proposed to them. It was urged as far as prudence permitted, and in fact until it became apparent that further persuasion would defeat every object we had in view. It was then important that the Indians should be separated in bands, by the intervention of our settlements. As long as they can roam unmolested through the country, we may in vain expect either to reclaim them from the savage life they lead, or to induce them to seek a residence where their habits and pursuits will be less injurious to us. We could not purchase any particular district near the centre of the Pottawatamie country, but that tribe freely consented to give us land for the road described in the treaty, and for the settlement along it. Such a road may at all times be useful to them in travelling, and it will readily furnish them with a market for their game, and the means of procuring their accustomed supplies. But what is much more important to us, it will sever their possessions, and lead them at no distant day to place their dependence upon agricultural pursuits, or to abandon the country. The eventual importance of this communication to the United States, either in a pecuniary or political view, it is no part of our duty to explain. Such a provision was made for the construction of a road from the rapids of the Miami to the western line of the Connecticut reserve in Ohio, but as it has not been frequent in Indian treaties, we thought it proper that the Senate should be enabled to act upon this as well as other matters in the treaty, without affecting the validity of the cession, and therefore a stipulation has been inserted, which will give that body the entire control of the subject.

But our principal difficulty has been with the Miamies. The country which they occupy is much more valuable than that occupied by the Pottawatamies.

It is immediately upon the Wabash, and commands the great avenue of communication between the Ohio and the Lakes. Eel river, the northern boundary of the Pottawatamie cession, is incorrectly represented on the maps. In its general course it is much further from the Wabash than it appears to be upon them; and from the best calculation we can make, the whole cession is not less than two millions of acres, and perhaps amounts to three millions. The tract upon Lake Michigan is essential to the interests of Indiana; for without it, her citizens can have no access to that important outlet. The district embraced in the Miami cession, is probably equal in value to any other tract of similar extent in the western country; and its acquisition was highly important to the state of Indiana, as it interrupts the continuity of her settlements, and prevents her from entering upon that system of internal improvements, to which she is invited by nature, policy and interest.

The right conveyed by the Miamies is also more extensive than that conveyed by the Pottawatamies. The latter have ceded their right to the country within specific bounds. To the largest, and much the most important of the three cessions made by them, the Miami claim is the most valid. But the Miamies have also ceded their whole right to the country north of the Wabash, with the exception of a few small reservations. The United States, by this cession, have acquired a

joint interest with the Pottawatamies to an extensive district of country, and altho' a just regard to public opinion, as well as to the situation of the Indians, will probably prevent them from taking possession of any part of it, without the formal consent of the Pottawatamies, still the extinguishment of the Miami claim will enable us to negotiate with more efficiency, when the proper time arrives for the purchase of the Pottawatamie country, or for the establishment of another boundary between them and the United States. The extent of this Miami claim we do not know, and it must be left to the government hereafter to ascertain it, when such a measure becomes necessary. The Miamies are also better organized in their government than the Pottawatamies, and their reduced numbers enable them to act with more unanimity. The preceding annuities due to them were considerable, and they were aware that the possession of the country was highly important to us. Under these circumstances, it was necessary to give them much more for the relinquishment they made, than was given to the Pottawatamies. And, without troubling you with the details of a semi-barbarous negotiation, which occupied us many days, it is enough to say, that the treaty exhibits the most advantageous arrangement which could be made.—

The annuities due from former treaties to the Miamies amount to 18,400 dollars. Consequently, the permanent annuity given by this treaty will be 6,600 dollars.—But we have procured the insertion of a provision, applicable to preceding annuities, as well as to this, by which their duration will depend on the existence of the tribe. The Miamies are greatly reduced in numbers, and like all the tribes in this quarter, they are in a rapid state of declension. A perpetual annuity would be payable as long as an individual of the tribe might remain. But by the present arrangement this heavy debt will cease when they become incorporated with some more powerful and kindred tribe, and this event cannot be very remote. The appropriation for the support of their poor, and for the education of their youth, being limited like that to the Pottawatamies, we do not consider as presenting any difficulty in the way of the ratification of the treaty. The temporary annuity of 10,000 dollars, payable in 1827; and of 5,000 dollars, payable in 1828, and the provision for the immediate supply of goods, and for the delivery of the remainder in the course of the next summer, and the stipulations for building houses and furnishing various articles to them, constitute an important portion of the consideration for the cession. Without acceding to them, we should have concluded no treaty. The observations made in the preceding part of this letter, respecting the immediate purchase of goods, will apply to the purchase made for the Miamies. This amounts to 31,040 dollars, 53 cents, as exhibited in the accompanying schedule, and similar vouchers have been prepared and delivered to the parties interested. The amount yet due, and for which provision must be made, is 26,259 dollars 47 cents.

A few reservations have been made, which require no particular explanation, and lands have been granted to certain individuals under similar circumstances to those already stated. Pecuniary claims have in like manner been liquidated and allowed. The necessary schedules, exhibiting a full view of these subjects, are herein enclosed. It is only necessary to add, in relation to them, that without consenting to this arrangement, all our efforts would have been useless.

We have also agreed, as the accompanying exhibit will shew, to purchase from a number of individuals the tracts granted to them by the treaty of St. Marys. The land amounts to 6,720 acres, and \$25,780 are to be paid for it. These are the principal circumstances connected with this negotiation, and with the treaties which have resulted from it, that we deem it important to submit to you. We have never lost sight of the interest of the U. States, nor have we forgotten that we were treating with a poor miserable people, the feeble remnant of the former owners of the country: a people who have sustained many injuries from us, and who have many claims upon our justice and humanity.—We deem it no part of our duty to press them to the ground. To procure their country for the least possible price, we have allowed them a consideration more valuable than the cession they have made. The game is nearly exhausted, and there is little else which they derive from it. In doing this, we believe we were consulting the views of our government, and the feelings and opinions of our country. We shall be happy to find that our conduct is approved, and that the treaty has been ratified. Certain we are, that another or a better one will not be procured, without

pursuing a system which we trust will find few advocates.

The sum appropriated for holding these treaties, and which we have drawn for, has been placed in the hands of Maj. R. A. Forsyth, sub-agent in the Indian Department, and appointed by us special commissary for that purpose. The whole has been properly extended, and the vouchers have been examined and approved by us. He will immediately transmit his account to the Treasury for settlement.

Very respectfully,

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
LEWIS CASS,
J. BROWN RAY,
JOHN TIPTON.

Hon. JAMES BARBOUR,
Secretary of War.

LIBERIA.

[Extracts from public letter.]

"On the 1st of June, was concluded an agreement with Joe Harris, and all the head men of Grand Bassa, for Factory Island, to be held in fee simple, by the United States, forever." [Goods to the value of 250 dollars were given for this island.]

"This island lies from 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 miles from the bar of, and within St. John's river, which belongs to the second class magnitude of the rivers of west Africa. It is 6 miles long, 3-4 of a mile wide; dry level; of the most productive soil in the world; forming the key of an immense and invaluable country, and commanding the trade of a rich and boundless interior. Its soil will easily sustain 1000 families—it has excellent water, and building materials in abundance—has two or three small native hamlets, but the people have ever been among the most friendly and peaceable of all our neighbors. Possession is given immediately, and the first payment to a small amount has been made.

Vessels of 76 to 100 tons, may enter the St. John's, in a calm time, and are in the practice of doing so. It is proposed to place thirty to fifty families there, on the next arrival from the United States. The small schooners building will enable the colonists on the main to communicate with the island every week, or oftener, if necessary, the distance being less than a single day's sail from the Cape.

Seventy five families are now placed at the St. Paul's—all, or nearly all of whom have actually removed there, have made improvements on their lands. The whole number of plantations actually assigned is 219, exclusive of lands held and occupied by recaptured Africans.

Not an individual from North Carolina has suffered materially in health, in consequence of emigrating to this country. Most of them are building houses and cultivating lands on the St. Paul's.

Improvements of every description are going forward with activity, and on a scale not before known to the colony.

The lumber and stores introduced by the Agent for recaptured Africans has placed that department in a very respectable situation. The colonial part of the concern suffers from the limited means by which its progress is measured—limited certainly, in comparison to its extending boundaries and rapidly accumulating bounds of expense and attention."

HURRICANE.—One of the most tremendous, awful and destructive hurricanes, which we have any record, passed through the country about 25 miles above Salisbury, North Carolina, in nearly an easterly direction, on Friday evening, the 20th ult. The current of wind was only about 10 yards in width. In its course it swept every thing from the ground; such was its irresistible fury, that the sturdiest oaks, and the heaviest rocks, were torn from the earth, and blown off like feathers before an ordinary wind. This is extravagant language, we know, but it is no more so than the reality will bear us out in using. The forest, where the hurricane passed was levelled to the ground! presenting the appearance of a meadow of luxuriant grass with a single swath mowed through the centre of it. Wherever it passed a plantation, it totally annihilated every thing in its course. We have not learned the whole extent of the hurricane.

To give some idea of the tremendous force of the wind, we can state, on the authority, that large timbers, 12 inches square, and 20 or 30 feet long, were cut in two and three miles; some of the most valuable apparel blown from Mr. Jones' house was found lodged 6 or 7 miles from the place; knives and forks were blown two or three miles, and some of them stuck fast in trees at that distance, &c. We could name hundreds of other instances, seemingly improbable as the above which are well known to be true, and which will not admit of doubt as to their correctness. It is almost impossible to estimate the loss Mr. Jones has suffered; it cannot be less than 2000 dollars. [Western Carolinian.]