

Office Indian Agency
 Michilimackinac June 5th 1834

His Excellency J. B. Porter

Chief Indian Affairs

Dear Sir,

The Ottawas of the Peninsula have been applied to, by a part of the Pottowattomies of St. Joseph's to settle among them. A movement, having this object in view, appears to have been set on foot, soon after the conclusion of the late treaty at Chicago. And there are circumstances connected with it, which leave but little doubt, that white men are at the bottom of the project. Several of the Ottawa Chiefs, who have been urged to accept to the proposition, have consulted me, on the subject. The old Chief Pawkwozzigon, has just terminated a visit to the office. He says that a deputation of the Pottowattomies is soon expected at his village. He is fearful that in the want of success, the temper & habits of the Pottowattomies will not harmonize with the Ottawas.

I, altogether, doubt the policy of this movement. I have stated to the Chief last summer, that the subject is one, which, in its probable, & not remote consequences, I deem of sufficient interest to refer to the Department; and that until an answer is received, a firm clause in the opinion, that no arrangement, by which they will be, in any manner bound, should be made.

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The concentration of Indians in the peninsulas, is liable to the objection, that it cannot be a permanent location: And as a question of administration at this office, it is not desirable. The Indians who always resort to it, are sufficiently burdensome, in the unavoidable expenses which they create. Pottowattomus, even in limited numbers, could not be received, without increasing the expenditures for provisions & occasional clothing for the sick & decrepit, and pressing on the shop, which is already overburdened with mendicants.

I have the honor to request your consideration of this subject, and will be happy to communicate to the Indians, your reply.

I am Sir

Very respectfully,

Your Obedt Servant

Henry R Schoolcraft

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