

Reply of the Ottobas by Pabamitabi.

267

My Father: We have considered your words, and we have opinions upon the several subjects you have laid before us. And I am selected to make a reply. It is true, the Chippewas and ourselves were originally one people, & we live together as brethren. We are happy to hear what you have spoken to us on the subject of our being at peace. We are glad that you have come to sit down among us. We rejoice to hear that our Great Father who sits beyond the mountains has shown this can face, & is mindful of what we have done, & what we are doing. I say again, we are happy - very happy to hear of our words.

My Father: The way in which we live, by having fires, is one which our forefathers began. We have followed them. We have seen that this way is profitable & pleasing to the Great Spirit. We have also been advised by those who wear Black Coats to follow this path. Your words remind us of several things, which they have mentioned to us, & advise us to do. They are the same. And we rejoice that it is so.

My Father: We have given over war & wandering. We live upon our own lands. And we feel anxious to continue upon them, & to secure them for our posterity. We do not wish to part with them. This is what our Chiefs have directed me to say. And it is what I myself feel. And we have to request that you will make our Great Father who sits beyond the mountains, acquainted with our wishes & feelings on this subject.

254
My Father: We are pleased to find the doors of the Agency opened. We are in need of the aid you have offered us. And we are happy that you have considered the situation of our old men, widows & children. We ask you to assist us when they may apply. We would ourselves remind you of our want of food & tobacco at this time.

My Father: Your remarks on the bad effects of drinking, are just. Nothing has been more hurtful to us than strong liquor. We have commenced opening our eyes on this subject. Our chiefs are trying to keep it out of our villages. We entreat you to let none come among us. We will ourselves use every effort to aid you in preventing traders from carrying it, on to the land where we live.

My Father: This is the reply of the nation. You see all our chiefs sitting round. They unite in what I have said. Our young men unite in it. We are of the same mind. And I wish you to consider it, the general reply. Should any other be made, by others who are not present, do not regard it, as the voice of the tribe. I speak for the tribe, & my words are their words.

My Father: We now shake hands with you, and bid you welcome.

Chiefs present, in their order.

269

1. Nishcajini. Horathy Man.
2. Nusawcqust. In the fork of a tree.
3. Nawi muskoda. Middle of a Mainie
4. Afiakoozigin. Smoking mixture.
5. Makudeponais. The Black Bird
6. Keminechagan. The Bastard
7. Pahamitebi. He who pulls, or draws
8. Sagitandwa. Coming down stairs
9. Pamirukinang. Corn tapers.
10. Maazunuko. Moose's Track
11. Ashowanashi. On a beam in
12. Chinoquomahn. The American.

* In this translation the persons are accommodated to the
 Seneca region. When conveyed in English. The Seneca number is
 therefore, generally retained, where it is employed in the
 original.

HRA000014