

Mackinaw Oct. 27th 1841

To the President of the United States

Honored Sir

My object is to present ^{to your mind} the case of
the Ottawa & Chippewa Indians in this country
In the treaty with them in the year 1836 they ceded
their country except some reservations
The 1st treaty was altered. In the last treaty they were
to remain only 5 years unless the U. States should give
them permission to remain for a longer period of time.
They & some of the white inhabitants in this quarter
have petitioned that the time may be extended
A country is provided for these Indians across the
Mississippi - They are not disposed to go. Among other
reasons they are fearful of war. The Chippewa & Sioux
have long been at war. Some of these Indians have
emigrated to Canada thereby forfeiting their annuities.
This is an evidence of their affliction.
It is contended by some that the U. States laws cannot
now protect these Indians, that they are under the ex-
clusive jurisdiction of the State of Michigan.
It does not so appear to my mind. Their unceded country
or reservations after the treaty was in precisely the same
condition as their whole country previously. If a man
sells a part of his farm that does not at all effect the
unsold part. I should suppose that as long as government
extends the time of holding their reservations so long
the U. States laws will protect them.

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Before the 5 years ended surveys were made on the Indian
reservations ~~some of~~ the treaty a council of chiefs
was to be held & ^{land was to be} ~~selected~~ selected by them as respects
some of their reservations. This has not been done.

The President of the U. States by the treaty was to attend
to these rights of the Indians.

~~As~~ I need not go into lengthy detail.

Their reservations in this quarter probably will not be wanted
for a long time by the whites. It is to be hoped government
will grant their request. They need some action of Congress
in order to ease their minds & give them any courage
to labor. Can mechanics farmers &c be properly
employed according to the treaty if they have no reser-
vations here. A petition from these Indians I suppose your
honour received. With sentiments of respect I have
the honor to be ~~your~~ Sir your
Obedt. Servant

Alvan Cox

To his excellency

John Tyler President
of the U. S. A.

As I was at Washing last summer I had conversation
with the former Secretary of War Mr. Cameron &
with Elisha Whittelsey Esq. upon the subject of this
communication. I also conversed with a member
of the Members of Congress. A petition was presented
to the House of Representatives by Mr. Whittelsey.

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