

Mackinac June 25<sup>th</sup> 1844

To His Excellency  
John Tyler  
Sir.

The undersigned,  
chairman of the committee who were  
charged with superintending the pre-  
paring and forwarding the accompan-  
ing petition of the Ottawa and Chipew-  
ewas, wants together with the committee  
the medium through which you  
may communicate any reply which  
you may be pleased to make to  
the Indians touching their petition.

Should you prefer communicating  
through the Sup: of Indian Affairs for  
the Superintendency, this mode would  
be equally agreeable to the committee,  
and perhaps more satisfactory to the  
Indians.

I am, Sir, Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt,

Reuben D. Turner,  
Chairman.

#318

HRA002211

HRA011513

Reuben B. Turner

receiving the request  
of Chippewa

Sir

Excellency

John Tyler

President U. S.

Oct 27.  
1857.

HRA002212

HRA011514

Wackinac June 23<sup>rd</sup>: 41

Robert Stuart Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 D<sup>r</sup> Sir,

I send you, en-  
 closed, extracts from memoranda  
 of a conference with the chiefs (and  
 head-men of the Chippewas & Ottowas,  
 had some time since with reference  
 to petitioning Congress for and ex-  
 tension of the time of holding their  
 reservations &c.

The facts in themselves, I regard  
 as exceedingly interesting, and highly  
 important also, as forming the ground  
 of a strong appeal to the Government  
 in favour of the Indians remaining  
 at their present location.

I trust you will unite your  
 efforts with that of the Indians (and  
 their friends in this place, on behalf  
 of their petition.

Since you left, several canoes have  
 stopped here, on their way from L'Arbre  
 Croche to Ottawa Island on the Canada  
 side, and I regret to say they have  
 carried off some of our best Indians  
 and I fear their example will be

4RA001062

followed by many others - Indeed, if something be not done to quiet the apprehensions and unsettled feelings of the Indians, they must either sink in despondency or seek a refuge and home beyond our borders. Recent events and changes in the administration of Indian affairs, so far as they have been made known to the Indians, have begun already to excite hopes, which I trust and believe will be realized.

I should like Mr. Sheffield make his promised visit to Macomb. We should be most happy if he would make his home at our house during his stay. Will you be good enough to express our wishes to him.

And believe me,

Yours most respectfully,

Robert H. Turner

(S)

Question to remain in so, state remain, removing.

Answer

We wish Customs already an in to give the clip region and do not and o. indebt are fe the ne - me on west, andie tribes becom Mich to ren of to

Language Indian elici in or most is been third

Question to the Indians— Do you desire to remain in the country you now occupy? If so, state the reasons why you wish to remain, and the objections you have to removing West of the Mississippi.

Answer— We are anxious to remain. We wish to adopt the manners and customs of the white men. We have already advanced somewhat towards an imitation of the whites. We object to going west of the Mississippi, because the climate and circumstances of that region are unadapted to the habits and occupations of our people. We do not wish to part with our religious and other privileges for which we are indebted to our present location. We are fearful of placing ourselves in the near neighborhood of the numerous and warlike tribes of the West, some of whom cherish an ancient hostility towards our own tribes. We desire eventually to become citizens of the State of Michigan, and if we are permitted to remain, shall ask permission of the State to do so.

Questions put to the L'Abre Choche Indians the following facts were elicited. We have three villages, in one of them we have built thirty neat wooden houses. Our population is . . . Missionaries have been among us permanently for thirteen years. We have erected three churches, three parsonages,

and three school houses. Our schools are well attended. Some of our people can read and write in # English, French, and Indian. # Considerable land is under cultivation. Most of our people are engaged in agriculture, and we depend greatly for support on the cultivation of our fields. We have introduced among us, cattle, horses, # hogs and poultry. # We contribute to the support of our ministers and schools. We think that our condition is improving and that we are gradually approaching the condition of the white man. If the government will, permit us to remain on our reservations, we hope soon to be fit to claim the character and assume the station of citizens.

If we are forced to leave our reservations we will not go west of the Mississippi, but prefer to seek a home in Canada."

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Albert Stuart Esq

Sup: Ind: Affairs.

Detroit

Michigan

Enclosed is a card from a  
representative of the  
as an attorney of the  
attorney there on the same

Rec'd June 28th  
Ans: T

Richard D. Turner  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1871

HRA001067