12-15-1825

Letter from James B. Finley to L.W. Cass

James B. Finley

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Recommended Citation
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Now sir take from them the following families

Honor Sandnessky Dec 15 1825

Hon sir I take the present opportunity of writing to you on the subject of the Indians under our care at this place and am happy to state to you that the work of civilizing is progressing as fast as we can. 

I must apply it to our Indians in the General & the

Chief especially as you seem to follow the advice of your friends and especially the instructions given by your self & the General Government to improve their lands &

State and also to divide their lands according to the provisions made in the treaty at Fort Maps &

the advice of your self & others this plan think is fully adopted by the nation and in the last some

men they employed a Surveyor to commence and

day off into Sections as long as they were able to beg

them then the work was stopped for a season. Adam Riggs

led by the Chief to request you to use your influence and with the government to lend them some aid in

This Bennet and as it will be next to impossible to

get in their March to civilization I do hope the government will grant it. In my judgment this article

have claims on us that move others of the renounce the

tribes have since the treaty of Greenville they have been quiet and fought bellanaty in the last also with

Kant ² ² their constant adherence to the advice of the

government and their strong location to become a civilized

people they wish in some other and their cannot

Now be a remaining doubt but the while this is a large majority of them San amenity people
The present Constitution of these States is so far from being adapted to the safety of the Union, that they are so meddlesely mixing with the Indians, and I have no doubt but they will continue to mix with them till the whole be swallowed up in that destruction of the American and those who lead regularly their conduct are in office. The British Major Long in Maine has led Indian warriors and chiefs of the Micmacs in addition of Iroquois leaders to the 13th and I do believe that a majority of the Micmac generation are of the American government. If my Ojibwe are correct that is their being deceived from them the war actually begins. I acknowledge this provides the opportunity for the taking of the Indian soil. The Micmacs have now so many of the old ones are Indians but they know not what they are like. They are killing long years as they cut off the Micmacs' land and every year they kill more of them. In the French land they are most anxious that their children should not be consigned from the land of their ancestors, but remain to become full citizens and enjoy all blessings of civilized life.

The present Constitution is not a Remnant and that small Six Nations Community I think will be the amount of all those besides here at the Dog Spring these American's Canane in Canada and then is the only knowledge they have with these Mohawks, Delaware and Shawnees, so that the remnants of the wigwam and all other
Hon Sir – I take the present opportunity of writing to you on the subject of the Indians under our care at this place and am happy to state to you that the work of civilization is progressing as fast as we could reasonably expect it. Our Indians in the general & the chiefs especially feel disposed to follow the advice of their friends and especially the instructions given by your self & the general government to improve their lands & stock and also to devise their lands agreeable to the provisions made in the Treaty at Fort Meggs & the advice of your self & others. This plan I think is fully adopted by the nation and in the last summer they employed a surveyor to commence and lay off into sections as long as they were able to pay him then the work was stopped for a season. And I am requested by the chiefs to request you to use your influence with the government to lend them some aid in this business as it will be a great help to them in their march to civilization. I do hope the government will grant it. In my judgment this people have claims on us that none other of the Norwestern Indians have.

1st Since the Treaty of Greenville they have been friends and fought gallantly in the last war with Briton.

2d Their constant adherence to the advice of the government and their strong exertions to become a civilized people this I think is unparallelled and their cannot now be a remaining doubt but they will (that is a large majority of them) be an agricultural people.

3rd The mercy constantly shewn by this nation in the time of war to prisoners whether taken by themselves or others. It was their constant practise to purchase all prisoners from other nations of Indians and either adopt them to their own families or to have them exchanged & this I think now calls for us to shew mercy & help them.

4th Their approximation to the whites is much more than any other people of the forests. They are very much mixed with the Americas and the foregoing article may easily account for it. Many of the principal families that compose this tribe are three fourths one half or one quarter white and have numerous white relatives living in this state, ‘viz’ the Walker the Zane the Armstrong the Hicks the Grayeys the Rankin the McCulocks the Brown old _______. Besides several white women that have been taken prisoners and have half breeds. There is George Abram & Joseph Williams families all those be connected with the whites and whose fathers were all Amarican citizens and I know of no law that can deprive their children by Indian women of the right of citizenship. The two Mr. Walkers are acknowledged as such and both hold offices under the government. If this be correct I do assure you that three fourths of these people have the same and nothing is wanting to make them respectable and useful citizens of the United States but to be educated and instructed in the useful arts and every exertion is making to do this that the circumstance will admit of.

5th The approximation of these people to the whites is perhaps reason why they are so rapidly mixing with them and I have no doubt but they will continue to mix until they will be swallow’d up in our
population. Some of this nation and those who draw regularly their annuities are in office in the state employ. Major Long is married to half Indian woman and Noah McCullock is auditor of Logan County. In a word sir I do believe that a majority of the rising generation are legitimately citizens of the American government if my premises are correct, that is their being descended from those who were naturally citizens and I am happy to find that the government has acknowledged the principle by appointing them to offices. This is not a cimera but I hold my self responsible for the truth of what I have stated. Its true that many of the old ones are Indians but how long will they last. They are falling every year as grass before the sythe and a very few years their will not one of them be left and even these are most anxious that their children should not be driven from the land of their relations but remain & become fellow citizens and enjoy all blessing of civilized life.

6th This nation is but a remnant and that small six hundred & twenty I think will be the amount of all that resides here at the Big Spring the River Huron & Canaan in Cannada and there is to my knowledge _____ with these Mohawks Delawares & Shawnees so that the remnant of the Wyandott is small.

7th Much labor and money has been expended already by the government & the church on this people and if removed to the wilderness it might considered lost in a grate degree and it would be in the judgment of many driving our own citizens to heathenism for they are certainly bone of ours & flesh of our flesh. I do hope that the government will let us make a full trial on these people and also that the government will continue our school sallery at what it was let year. Please to use your influence for this purpose.

In answer to Gov. Cass letter June 13, 1825

J.B. Finley