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Letter from Squire Gray Eyes & John M. Armstrong to James B. Finley

Squire Gray Eyes

John M. Armstrong

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Wyandott Nation Sept. 9th 1925

Dear Brother,

Since the meeting of the official members of the Church here, whose proceedings were sent to you informing you and the Ohio Conference of this decision, the enemy has been at work. It seems that one thing leading to this decision was the failure of the leading members to maintain their faith when the Indians here in the Wyandott Nation averted a movement that was composed of non-Indians. Those who were inclined to maintain the Indian position were put in a difficult position and had to compromise. It is reasonable to conclude that those who were present who went out of the meeting did not evaluate the decision in its entirety. The decision was made on the basis of the votes cast. The right of any group to dictate the terms of the Church matters. The main argument was against the resolution reported as secretary to the resolutions reported as secretary to the Wyandott Nation.
This country. He professes no religion. Yonders whole week in a hightone village in a state of intoxication, he came to the last home more than any other time in the motion to lead the young people into habits of intemperance. Such is the man who is the master spirit of the faction got up in favor of the new church and with his aid has succeeded too well in dividing your ranks. Old man Peltz has two sons (J. S. Beek & Little Clay) and two young men. If the official members have deserted our old church. At a meeting of the official members those four brethren agreed to come back and stay with us if a majority of the members where decided against them. But before the time to consult their advisors out of the church they have refused to comply with their agreement.

Our present missionary has deeply grieved and betrayed us. He has always held out the idea to us that he was between in his endeavors and that the weight when a suit of able opportunity presented itself go with or rather remain with us in the old church but his subsequent conduct shows that no pretensions were shallow and deceptive. Where we were about to adopt measures to erect a new church building some of our official members objecting that the suit might be. Our missionary spoke to me and said that that need not be urged as an objection for it was certain that which ever town the high and mighty went the church property would go, and now he brings a very different story of those being twelve members go with us to have a meeting and meeting house we can still hold our meeting "Such is the language now. Pray for our dear brother that the Lord may give us wisdom in this our time of trouble Your brother in Christ.

John M. Armstrong

Rev. J. F. Finley
Ohio Conference
Dear Brother

Since the meeting of the official members of M.E. Church here whose proceedings were sent to you informing you and the Ohio Conference of its decision, the enemy has been at work.

It seems that our slave dealing missionaries are willing to resort to any means whatever to maintain their grasp upon the Indians. Here in the Wyandott nation a meeting was got up composed of nonprofessers slave dealers infidels inebriates and backsliders and passed a certain preamble and resolutions and sent them to the Ohio Conf.

Now we solemnly protest against the proceeding of that meeting having any force or validity whatever. In the first place it could not be called a national meeting there being but 47 Wyandotts present. In the second place a large majority of those present were not members of the church. It is reasonable to conclude that there were some present who would vote out of the world religion itself were it in their power, if their course in life is any indication of sentiment.

We deny the right of any such body to dictate interfere or intermeddle in any church matter whatever. The man whose name is appended as secretary to the resolutions referred to has involved himself in slavery since we came to this country. He professes no religion, spends whole weeks in a neighboring village in a state of intoxication, a man who has done worse than any other ten men in the nation to lead our young people into habits of intemperance. Such is the man who is master spirit of the faction got up in favor of the new church and with his aids have succeeded too well in dividing our ranks. Old man Hicks his two sons (F.A. Hick & Little Chief) and David Young of the official members have deserted our old ship. At a meeting of the official members these four brethren agreed to come back and stay with us if a majority of the membership decided against them. But having had time to consult their advisors out of the church have since refused to comply with this agreement.

Our present missionary has deeply galled and betrayed us. He has always held out the idea to us that he was northern in his sentiments and that he might when a suitable opportunity presented itself go with or rather remain with us in the old church but his subsequent conduct shows that his pretentions were shallow and deceptive. When we were about to adopt measures to erect a new church building some of our official members objected alledging that the South might claim it. Our missionary spoke up and said that need not be urged as an objection for it was certain that which ever way the Wyandott Societys went the church property would go, and now he sings a very different song. “If there be only twelve members go with us we have a parsonage and meetinghouse we can still hold our meetings.” Such is the language now.

Pray for us dear brother that the Lord may give us wisdom in this our time of trouble.
Your brothers in Christ

Squire Grey Eyes

John M. Armstrong

Rev. J.B. Finley

Ohio Conference