

Alfred Gray to George W. Patterson

Gray wrote this draft of a letter to George W. Patterson concerning a treaty between the U. S. government and the Delaware Indians at the request of Rev. Pratt, a missionary to the tribe. Gray was concerned that the treaty was unfair to many of the Delaware and that the U.S. government was negotiating with four older chiefs, not some of the younger members of the tribe. He wrote that many of the Delaware were too intimidated to complain.

Creator: Gray, Alfred, 1830-1880

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 Gray, Alfred
 Delaware Md.
 See L.B. p. 230.
 KANSAS STATE
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 36806.

Sunday June 18. 1860
 Hon. Geo. W. Patterson
 My Dear Sir

I am requested by
 the Rev. Mr. Pratt, a Delaware missionary -
 at whose mission we called while on our
 way to Lawrence and by several others to
 do what I can to prevent the ratification
 of a treaty recently made with, or rather
 extorted from the Delaware Indians; but
 particularly requested to address you upon
 the subject and solicit ^{against the wish of} your influence, with
^{for Mr. May} ~~Mr. Sumner and other members~~ ^{and other members} of the Senate.
 Should it be consistent & convenient if you
 do so.

The circumstances of the case, ^{as} ~~as~~
^{communicated} ~~related~~ to me from reliable sources, are sub-
 stantially as follows: I will first say, however,
 that the Delaware Nation is governed by four
 Chiefs & a Body of Councilmen - the former,
 I believe, are elected to serve during Life,
 while the latter for one year. The consequence
 is that the former are mostly all old men,

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uneducated, & are not acquainted with the English Language at all. while the the Councilmen are mostly young men & possessed of fair abilities and good English Education. Mr Sykes, the Delaware agent, recently called the Council together without divulging the purpose for which they were called until after they had all assembled in the Council room & doors closed. This Federal agent then represented to them that he was clothed with full power and authority to make a Treaty and desired to conclude it immediately. Among other things, he represented that the white people were determined to have their valuable Reservation for cultivation - that the government could not & would not protect them any longer - that a Treaty must be made &c &c. And then proceeded to state the substance of the Treaty which the government desired to make. He said to them that all who desired to become citizens could do so & have their farms set off to them. while those who preferred to retain their tribal relations, could have an ample Reservation for that purpose & large annuities. The all

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Chiefs and Councilmen responded that if a treaty must be made, the main features of that proposed by the agent, suited them. As a discrete preliminary, after all this intimidation & fair representation, this agent demanded that the treaty should be made with the four old chiefs - that the Councilmen should execute a power of Atty & the said chiefs, clothing the chiefs with full power to treat. Of course the age of these old chiefs, they being the fathers of the Delaware nation, made it most proper that they alone should make this treaty. That they had no education & would be compelled to depend upon a brought up Interpreter, made it all the better. After additional intimidation, the Councilmen reluctantly gave the said power of Atty, with the express understanding, however, that the treaty should be as stated by the agent. ~~As soon as~~ A promise of secrecy having ^{been} extracted from them, the Council room was then cleared of all except the agent, four chiefs & the Interpreter. What other appliances were resorted to to induce the chiefs to sign the treaty, except Strychnine & Raisin-water, more commonly known in this country.

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as "Rot-gut," we don't know, nor do we believe they know themselves, for they were all ghost drinks, & of course were powerless in the hands of the Agent & his Interpreter until after the sin-
gle was consummated. The full details of this Treaty we have not learned, but enough is known to discover the impropriety upon the Indians & this section of the Country. & here it is: This Democratic Agent, a bogus Democratic R. R. Co of Leavenworth City, Democratic Capitalists of the same place, a pack of Federal Thieves & Murderers who infest our fair Territory, Commissioned by a corrupt administration, as well as the Department at Washington, are a company who are to receive the major portion of these beautiful lands under the name & style of the "Leavenworth Lawrence Railroad Company." This Railroad Co. avows the paternity of this illegitimate offspring, begotten by government officials.

The Delawares are very much incensed in regard to this treaty. Ninety nine out of every hundred are opposed to it. But are so intimidated & disheartened that they have not courage, many of them, to sign a remonstrance. They verily believe that if they do resist, they will all be driven from their lands & massacred by the government troops now stationed at Fort Leavenworth. Not only is it an outrage on the

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this high-handed outrage against the
Indians and the Country generally.

I do not know whether you are at
home, in N.Y. City; Washington, or elsewhere,
but will direct to Westfield, presuming that
it will reach you wherever you may be.

We have just passed through one of the
most severe droughts the Country ever knew.
Late planted Corn, ^{& potatoes} are about the only crops
that promise well. Nothing doing here at
present - no confidence - nor will there be
any until rains shall be admitted -