Documents relating to the negotiation of an unratified treaty of October 9, 1849, with the Sioux Indians. October 9, 1849

Washington, D.C.: National Archives, October 9, 1849

https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/YUWGPQ6L6ZIJM8P

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE

NEGOTIATION OF AN UNRATIFIED TREATY OF

OCTOBER 9, 1849, WITH THE SIOUX INDIANS

S.F.R. St Peters Sur ag.

C. 354.

J. Chambers & A. Ramsey.
Mend[illegible] Octr 15. 1849.

Reporting their proceedings as Commrs to treat with Sioux, and encl. treaty concluded with Half breeds, per Hon. H. H. Sibley, atto r. — Also, report dated 15th Oct., notes of Chandler in Council. R. P.

Treaty with Half Breeds, with copies of Comrs report and proceedings in Council, sent to Hon. Secy of Interior for submission to President & Senate.

Recd 5th Nov. 1849
Ack. to Gov Chambers Nov 5/49 & Gov Ramsey Nov 6/49.
W. Cochrane & Co[illegible]

10-9-

St Peters C. 374, 1849.
Mdewakantons

Petitions to treating
for a sale of their lands
Oct. 1849

Ker Hawkins

Mendota opposite Fort Snelling
Sept. 29th 1849

Journal of proceedings
of Ex. Gov. Chambers and Governor Ramsey
Commissioners on the part of the United States
to treat with the Dacotah or Sioux Indians for
the purchase of a portion of their lands lying
within the Territory of Minnesota

The commissioners having this day met to consult
in reference ~~to consult in reference~~ to the proper
course to be pursued to accomplish the object of their
mission, agreed that a messenger be immediately
sent to Lac qui parle & Traverse de Sioux to invite
the Wahpaton and Sisseton Bands to meet the Com-
missioners at this place on the 15th of next month:
and that the missionaries and traders at those places
be requested (by a joint letter) to assist in getting those
Indians to attend - and that the traders Duncan
Cambell & Alex. Graham be requested to furnish
them with a reasonable supply of provisions to
enable them to reach this place, and send in
their accounts &c. (see Copy of letter No. 1)

The commissioners agreed to meet the Medewakanton
Band, which is now in attendance on Monday
next (October 1st) and the Bellbouds of the
Sioux on the Monday following (October 8th)
at this place

Mr. J. W. Bass was appointed
to act as Commissary pending the treaty or
treaties about to be held with the Sioux
Indians.

Sept. 30th A runner was started this day at 7 O'clock
A. M. to the Wahpatons and Sissetons bands to re-
quest them to meet the Com: on the 15th ultimo, also

bearing letters to the Missionaries & traders at Lac qui Parle & Traverse de Sioux, soliciting their aid in getting them in

Oct. 3 - The Com.s having been prevented by the inclemency of the weather from meeting the Indians on the 1st & 2nd have this day met the Medewakantons in Council afsn.

Gov. Ramsay (at the request of the other Com.s) opened by saying that their great father the President of the U.S. having understood that their lands were no longer valuable to them for the purposes had sent Gov. C. & himself to ~~say to them~~ offer to buy them. & that it was his wish that they should join the other bands of the Sioux nation in a gen.l treaty. That the Com.s cannot, at any rate, treat with the different divisions of the Medawakanton bands, separately & called on them to answer whether they would join the other bands or whether they preferred treating separately

They (the Indians) requested that their relations, the half breeds, should be permitted to come into council with them which was assented to by the Commissioners.

They answered by their chief, Wabasha, that they wished time to consult together in relation to the propositions made by the Com.s and asked leave to withdraw for that purpose. and the council was adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock tomorrow the 4th

Oct. 4th The Com.s, having met the Indians in council, ~~and~~ having repeated the proposition of yesterday, ask what they had to say - and the propriety of their selling their lands was again urged by Gov. Ramsey, on account of the encroachment of the whites upon them - & their distance from their hunting grounds -

Wabasha } We and these my friends and relatives, the half breeds,
Chief } have listened to what you have said

We will talk to you in a mild manner

We have sold one part of our country to our great father the President of the United States, and he has laid over a part of the payment for it, and it is our desire that it should be paid over to us now

He promised us horses and cattle, and we wish them to be given to us this day

When we gave our lands, he promised us labourers and mechanics - they have not been ~~sent to~~ us - when we were in Washington, our great father did ~~not~~ talk to us about these matters

We have not been paid for the murders which have been committed upon us, tho' made to pay ~~[illegible]~~ for the injuries we have done others

We did not know that the Islands were included in the sale of our lands, and if they are claimed we wish to be paid for them - The whites are cutting wood and grass on them without paying us for it.

We wish that money due our relatives, the half breeds, should be paid them - We wish also to be remunerated for assisting to remove the Winnebagoes.

Our people will not consent to have the money due us applied to schools - at some future time if we should make a treaty, we will do something to support schools amongst us

Complaints have been made that we have acted badly - they are groundless - the Sioux have behaved well - but the Sacs & Foxes have behaved badly towards us - Wished to defer making a treaty for the present, that it was too late in the season, as it was now time for them to go upon their fall hunts upon which their winter provision depended

Commr Ramsay replied that the fund set apart for schools

schools need not put a difficulty in the way of their selling their country at this time, as it could be arranged at some future time, and that it would certainly be used for their benefit - he promised that they should have their horses in the spring. that that was the earliest time at which they could be furnished - that in reference to the Islands, if a treaty was made with them now, some compensation in the way of presents, should be made them for their supposed loss in that matter; and at the same time, read to them that portion of the treaty of 1837 showing that the Islands were included in the sale, and explained to them what was meant by the term "Islands"; as the Indians seemed to think there was a distinction between Islands surrounded by water navigable for Steamboats and those which were not.

Gov. Chambers said he had been sent from a great distance by their great Father, the President to join Governor Ramsey, their Superintendant, in holding a Council with them - he was glad to meet them in council. he had, for many years, been their superintendant, but had not then had it in his power to meet them - He knew that they had had their troubles and believed what Wabisha had said - that they had been misrepresented by people who were not their friends; but he believed their great father understood their conduct & knew their wants He knew that his white children, who were as numerous as the leaves on the trees, were coming near them, and that the lands they claimed were no longer valuable to them as a home; that their hunting grounds were far away, and he wanted them to go nearer to them and was willing to buy their lands and give them a home elsewhere - that the commissioners had shown their

respect for them, as the most numerous band of the Sioux Nation, by holding Council with them before the others arrived - He said he was sorry to hear that the Chippewas had killed some of the Sioux, and had not made them satisfaction, for he knew they were bound to do it - the treaty between the Chippewas and them had been made under his direction, and he knew that when some of their young men struck the Chippewas, they (the Sioux) had complied promptly and like honest men with their treaty, and made full satisfaction for the injury, and if the Chippewas had acted as Wabasha had represented they had acted like dogs; and the Sioux should make the proper representation to the Agent & Superint. and have the Chippewas warned to come forward and do them justice; but the Commissioners now in council with them, had nothing to do with the matter - He said that as to the five thousand dollars a year reserved by the treaty of 1837, he supposed that the portion of it which had been withheld, was kept back by their Great Father until the amount should be large enough to establish good schools among them, and enable them to educate all their children; but if they were so much in want of that money, the Commissioners would take upon themselves to make provision in any treaty they should now make with them, that that money should be paid over to them, if they would agree to make a liberal provision for schools out of the money they would be entitled to ~~after~~ the sale of their lands

He told them he was sorry to hear so many complaints from them - he knew their Great Father was their friend and wished to do them justice; and he was sorry to find them so averse to giving a direct answer to the questions asked them by Gov. Ramsey, which were

first, whether they were willing to sell their lands that, whether they were willing to unite with the other bands of the Sioux Nation in making a general treaty for the sale of the lands of the different bands, which their great father wished to purchase from them.

He hoped they would council further among themselves and give such an answer as their great father would expect from them - The commissioners wished them to council further among themselves and meet them again after dinner - The council was then adjourned until 3 o'clock P.M. - but before that time the Indians sent in a request that the meeting should be deferred until next morning, which was assented to by the Commrs.

October 5th

The council assembled, and Gov. Ramsey told the Indians that the commissioners were ready to hear from them - and after some delay, the chief Wabasha came forward & said the Sioux and their relatives and friends had heard what the Commrs. had said and had listened to their counsel that he had told them yesterday all the Indians had to say, and that what they said then they said today - they had nothing to add

Gov. Chambers said, the commissioners were sorry to find them unwilling to listen to the offer of their great father to buy their lands - instead of which, they had presented nothing but complaints, with regard to most of which they had no instructions, and could have nothing to do - that with regard to the $5.000 per ~~annum~~ reserved by the treaty of 1837, the commissioners had told them that if a treaty could now be made providing for an equivalent for school purposes, they would insert a provision for paying over to them the reserved fund, or so much of it as had not been expended - but for his part, he did not believe that that

money would be paid to them until they agreed to provide an ample school fund out of the pro-
-ceeds of a further sale of their lands—

"He said he would before parting with them, do them an act of justice and offer them some friendly advice. he had been a good deal among other tribes of Indians, and could say of the Medewakantons, what would not be true of any other tribe or band he ever met with, that after being amongst them almost a week he had not seen a single one of them drunk, and that their conduct had been dignified and manly; and he was pleased to find that their temperance was ascribed by their friends, to the fact that many of had signed the temperance pledge, and had almost without an exception adhered to it most manfully — he said that among their white brethren there were many who had signed a solemn pledge never to drink any thing that would make them drunk, and that these men would wherever they met them, take them by the hands as brothers — He said he understood that some of them had signed the pledge for a limited time, which was about to expire or had expired, and as their friend he most earnestly advised them to renew their pledge with-
-out loss of time; and if they kept it, it would make them more respectable and happy: and if to sober habits they would add the cultivation of the soil, and supply themselves with cattle and horses & hogs, they would have plenty to eat & to sell and educate their children and in a little while, the Sioux would take his stand by the side of the white man, and join in the great Council of the American people He said he had never seen any red men who could sooner put themselves upon an equality with their white brethren than the Sioux — He said it was not probable he would ever meet them again, but he would not soon forget them.

Governor Ramsey now told them that as they had refused to listen to the offer of the President to buy their

lands, the commissioners would shake hands with them and close the Council. and he recommended to them to return to their homes, as the supply of provisions here was very limited, and if they consumed all there would be none for their brethren from Lacqui Parle & the Lacs de Sioux, who were expected in a few days

Wabasha now approached and, without remark handed to the Commissioners a paper (in the hand writing of the Hon. H. H. Sibley) which paper is appended to this report, to show the views and complaints of the Indians as they chose to present them in conclusion.

Jno. S. Forman Secretary

Proceedings of Meeting Oct 8.

On Motion of Mr. Bailey, Mr. LaBathe was called to the Chair, after which

J R Brown ca. appointed Secretary

Mr. Labathe then was excused from serving and on Motion of Mr. Forbes

Mr. Sibley was appointed Chairman —

The question then being Shall the Majority of Votes be binding on the Half Breeds

which was carried unanimously. —

The question then on Motion of Mr. Bailly, was put

Shall those who have been brought up as Indians, and always live as Indians, although of Mixed Blood be participants

which was decided in the negative, without division

On Motion of Mr. Bailly, the question was put

Shall the Mixed Blood Sioux, others than with white Blood, be participants in the distribution

It was decided in the negative without division

On Motion of Mr. LaBathe the question was put

Shall all those of Mixed White & Sioux Blood, who are of not less than one-fourth Sioux ~~Blood~~ be participants

It was decided in the affirmative, without a division

On Motion of Mr. LaBathe the question was put

Shall all those be participants who are of not less than one fourth Sioux of the Mixed Sioux and White Blood ~~be~~ who may reside at a distance

Which was decided in the affirmative Ayes 15. Nays 10

On Motion of Mr. Forbes the question was put by Mr. Bailly

Shall Mr. Sibley be vested with full power to treat with the Government for the sale of the land known as the "Half Breed tract" ~~under~~ on such terms as he may see proper and agree to ratify and confirm any treaty by him so made — Which was decided unanimously.

I do hereby cer —

I do hereby certify that the within remarks were the proceedings of a meeting of the Mixed Bloods and their representatives held at Mendota at the Stone House of H. H. Sibley, this 8th day of October 1849

Joseph R Brown

The Chiefs and Braves of the Minday wakanton Sioux having consented together have desired to be put in writing as follows to wit.

First When our Great Father the President shall have complied with the stipulations of the treaty made by us in Washington in 1837. especially when we shall have seen the money reserved by the Govt. (which is $5.000. a year since 1837,) before us, ready to be paid we will then be ready to speak of further negotiations for the sale of our remaining lands. We have also been promised horses from the surplus fund (of $8.250. a year, for the last three years. These horses we wish to see. We wish also that when we have relatives of mixed blood, who are qualified to fill the station of farmer or blacksmith for our bands, that when we request them to be appointed, they shall be preferred to strangers. We have to complain also, that we were sometime since persuaded to make a treaty of peace with our enemies the Chippewas, by which treaty all intrusions of individuals of one band on the lands of the other, either for hunting or other purposes, were strictly forbidden. The Chippewas every year since that time have come to hunt & destroy the game on our lands. And have killed five of our people, for all of which injuries we have received no redress, and we have forborne to revenge ourselves, because of our faith and good disposition towards the Government of the United States. We will wait until the snow falls, when should we receive no satisfaction, we will redress ourselves.

There are schools at each of three of our villages, which we supposed were supported out of a surplus of the farmer's fund of $8.250.- to the amt. of $300. per annum, but we have lately been informed that the payments to two of these schools are made out of the reserve fund of $5.000. per annum, which we never consented should be applied to purposes of education, but which it was stipulated should be paid annually either in money or goods as the President might direct, and it was so explained to such of us as were present when the treaty was made. When the treaty of 1837 was made, we ceded the islands in the Mississippi River to the Government, meaning those which were surrounded by navigable water, but we did not suppose that advantage would be taken of this, to deprive us of large portions of land because a small stream runs around it, as is now the construction of the treaty by the whites. We were also told that under no circumstances should wood be cut upon our

lands by the Government and the whites unless we were paid therefor. This has not been the case for our wood has been taken by the garrison at Fort Snelling as well as by the whites along the Mississippi, and we have not received any payment. We have long since given land at Fort Snelling, for a Government reserve, but we did not expect wood to be cut beyond its limits without our being remunerated.

Three years ago five of our young men joined a party who went to war upon the Sacs & Foxes because they had killed one of our people the previous year. This war party unfortunately killed some Winnebagoes, for which all our annuities were stopped, causing us much suffering & death, and we were obliged to compromise the affair by consenting to pay $5000. in money and horses. We were promised by Capt Eastman the Commanding Officer of the Fort, that if our principal men would go down & assist in removing the Winnebagoes, this sum should be repaid us, which they did, but we have never received a cent of it. — Some of our Sissetons and Wahpatons friends who are with us, wish us to complain also, that the Government purchased a piece of land from the Chippewas whereon to place the Winnebagoes, which belonged to the Sioux. We hope compensation could be made them for this injury.

When these complaints we have made, are redressed, and justice is done us, we will then take our Great Father's Commissioners by the hand, and talk with them about selling our lands on the West of the Mississippi. We wish to meet all the bands of Sioux when a treaty is to be made, at some convenient point, when we will talk about the ~~place~~ home where the Government will place us when we remove. The only proper time to assemble all the Indians will be after corn gathering in the latter part of the summer.

We omitted to mention that when the treaty of 1837 was made, we gave money to our half-breeds, which was not given to them by the Commissioners, but delivered in many cases to ~~dishonest~~ improper men, who have carried it off, and our relations have consequently lost it all. We wish the Government to have this amount ascertained & paid. Also we have learned that the Dragoons have marked out a place to build a fort in the country of the Sissetons, which band are very averse to having a fort there, as it will ~~cause~~ make the buffalo to leave the country, and cause that band much suffering, as they have no other means of subsistence. We hope the Government will attend to this, and not allow such a step to be taken.

Witness our hands.

Wabashaw	his x mark	Chief	Kayuke sah Band
Wacoota	his x mark	Chief	Red Wing Band
Towaia ta dootah	his x mark	Chief	Little Crow Band
Muckapee ahmuzzah	his x mark	2d Chief	Red Wing Band
Muzzahotah	his x mark	Chief	Black Dog Band
Tachonkawash tay	his x mark	Chief	Good Road's Band
Muckapee we chash tah	his x mark	Chief	Lake Calhoun Band
Shakopee	his x mark	Chief	Six's Band
Wafsoo-we chash-tashee	his x mark	Chief Soldier	Good Road Band
Hoo ah pah	his x mark	2d Chief	Six's Band
Ahmuzzah howash tay	his x mark	Soldier	Red Wing Band
Ah sio ge nan gee	his x mark	3d Chief	Six's Band
Wakkon dee otah	his x mark	Chief Soldier	Kayuke sah Band
We chonk see	his x mark	2d Chief	Lake-Calhoun Band
Wakkon jean jean	his x mark	Chief Soldier	Little Crow Band
Hin di ah koo	his x mark	Soldier	
Empato ho tah	his x mark	Soldier	
Ork ta He dan	his x mark	Soldier	
Tah ta me nan	his x mark	Soldier	
Tah ta Bo me do	his x mark	Soldier	
Yahaw enan gee	his x mark	Soldier	
Kai he dan	his x mark	Soldier	
Chonk see you tah	his x mark	Soldier	
Macaw te nan ge	his x mark	Soldier	
He han doo tah	his x mark	Soldier	
Wah man e saw	his x mark	Soldier	
Tah ta-moi-ah	his x mark	Soldier	
Tah-chon-koo	his x mark	Soldier	
Oke-she-dan-dootah	his x mark	Soldier	
Wah shee chon muzzah	his x mark	Soldier of the Sipetons	Upper
Wah mun de ho ton manne	his x mark	Soldier of the Sipetons	Upper

Read, explained & signed in presence of

H. C. Fairbanks,
F. Lalotte
Oliver Faribault

J. J. Farjeau
Augustin his x mark Rock

St Peters, C. 354-49.

Proceedings in Council
with
The Half Breeds
8 & 9 Oct. 1849

(B)

Lieut Hoachiane

Proceedings of a Council held at Mendota in the Territory of Minnesota on the 8th day of October in the year 1849 by Governor Ramsey of said Territory, and ex-Governor Chambers of Kentucky, on the part of the United States, and the Half-breeds of the Dacotah or Sioux nation, with a view to the purchase of the tract of land reserved to the said Halfbreeds by a treaty concluded between the United States and the Sioux and other tribes of Indians on the 15th day of July 1830.

Gov. Chambers, at the request of Gov. Ramsey, opened the Council by enquiring whether the Half-breeds claimants of the land in question were present by themselves or their authorized representatives; and was answered by Mr. Prescott (U. S. interpreter, and chairman of a committee of five appointed by a previous meeting of the Half-breeds) that more than two thirds of the persons entitled under the treaty aforesaid, were present or were represented in the Council.

Mr. Prescott (whose wife is a Sioux woman & his children half-breeds) then presented to the commissioners a paper, which he said contained the proceedings of a meeting of the Half-breeds, which paper, he and the four persons who accompanied him were appointed a committee by the Half-breeds, to present to the Commissioners.

Upon an examination of this paper, Gov. Chambers went on to remark that with regard to the persons who would be entitled to

participate in the distribution of the money that might become payable from the United States to the Half breeds or others of the mixed Sioux & white blood. the commissioners did not mean to take upon themselves to designate them, or the degree in which persons of the mixed blood should be entitled; but proposed that in case a treaty should be concluded, to insert a clause in it by which that question should be referred to a commissioner or commissioners to be appointed by the President, which would give time to ascertain with more accuracy, not only who, and how many individuals were entitled to the distribution of the fund arising from the treaty, but in what proportions they were so entitled: that these are facts which would depend upon evidence which the present commissioners had not time to examine

He further remarked that the commissioners were willing to consult with Mr. Sibley (the person designated in the paper just presented by the committee; but they wished the Half breeds to be present also and to participate in the council, and if a treaty should result from the consultation, they would require the signatures of the Half breeds in attendance, in addition to that of Mr. Sibley and would also require the signatures of the members of the committee who presented the paper above referred to, a majority of whom were Half breeds, and the minority, white men whose children were half breeds.

Mr. Sibley now came forward & presented a paper, purporting to be his authority from the Half breeds to negotiate with the commissioners (which

(which will be appended to this treaty if one is made.) He said he had a similar paper executed some time ago, and more numerously signed, which he would present to the commissioners at another time

Governor Chambers then asked whether the Halfbreeds present, and their representatives would be willing to cede their lands to the United States, and receive as a compensation for it, the proceeds of the sales of it, when surveyed and brought into market, as other public lands belonging to the United States were, subject to a deduction of the expenses of surveying & other expenses attending the sale, and payable from time to time as the sales progressed

Mr. Prescott answered that they preferred that the government should purchase their land and pay them the money for it - Mr. Sibley concurred with Mr. Prescott and said that many of the Half-breeds were poor, and needed money to establish themselves, purchase stock &c

Gov. Chambers then went on to remark, that the proposition he had just submitted, was made with a view to satisfy them that the object of the government in proposing to buy their lands, was not to speculate upon them, but to place it in a situation to be settled.

He said that the wish of the government was to have made a general treaty with the Sioux nation and to have included the Half-breeds in it, but the commissioners had satisfied themselves that that could not be done

done, but with that view their instructions intimated an aggregate amount of money to be paid for the purchase they were instructed to make from the Sioux and their Half bred relations; and treating with the latter separately Gov. Ramsey and himself considered it their duty, in making an offer to the Half breeds to observe a due proportion between the amount offered and the aggregate amount which they were authorized to pay for all the lands proposed to be purchased; keeping in view the relative value of their lands as compared with the lands belonging to the Sioux proper

He presumed that the Halfbreeds and those who acted for them, will know that the treaty, made with them by Gov. Doty in 1841, had been rejected by the Senate of the United States; and it was reasonable to infer that it was rejected because too great a price had been stipulated to be paid for their lands. Keeping these things in view, the commissioners had come to the conclusion that they ought not to offer more than one hundred & fifty thousand dollars for the Half-breed lands. This would be almost equal to fifty cents an acre; and adding to that the expenses of bringing it into market, it would be many years before the government would be reimbursed the outlay; and if the interest of the money to be paid them should be added, he considered it very certain that the government would be the loser by the bargain; for every body knew that the government never received more than the minimum price of one dollar

and a quarter per acre for the public lands. and besides, the Half-breeds, or many of them being resident upon the land, would have the opportunity of making preemption rights upon the very best portions of it.

Mr. Sibley said the offer made by the commissioners, was greatly below the estimate which the half breeds put upon their lands, and much less than he thought they ought to have for it. Since the treaty made by Gov. Doty, the value of the land had increased as it had been ascertained that a great deal of it was mineral land of great value. That lead and copper had been discovered on it, and he had high authority for this statement in a letter from D. D. Owen, a geologist in the employment of the government; which letter he would show to the commissioners; he hoped therefore that in estimating the price to be given for those lands, the commissioners would bear in mind that the government estimated, and had sold its mineral lands at five dollars per acre.

Commissioner Chambers said in reply to Mr. Sibley, that whatever might be the increased value of the lands since the date of Governor Doty's treaty, it was well known that the pre-emption and settlers claims entitled them to obtain it, and always the choice sections at the minimum price; and as to the mineral lands, experience, he thought, must have taught the government that up to this time they had cost more than had been obtained for them; the rents received for them, had mostly accrued to

the benefit of the government agents, in addition to their salaries; and now the untos are claiming restitution of the rents from the public treasury; and for years to come. Congress will be harassed with petitions for the restitution of them.

(Mr. Sibley, afterwards showed the commissioners the letter of Mr Owen, and some small white specimens of the lead-ore from the Halfbreed tract)

The Council having adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the commissioners held several consultations with Mr. Sibley who insisted that two hundred & fifty thousand dollars was the lowest estimate that could reasonably be put upon the Halfbreed tract. The commissioners finally proposed to stipulate for the payment of two hundred thousand dollars, beyond which, they said they could not go. and Mr. Sibley having agreed to accept this offer, a Treaty was prepared upon this basis; and, upon the re-assembling of the Council, was signed by the commissioners and by Mr. Sibley, as the representative of the Halfbreeds generally, and by such of the halfbreeds themselves as were present, and by the fathers of some who were not present on behalf of their children.

Jno. S. Foman Secretary

To the Hon. T. Ewing, Secretary of the Interior.

The undersigned Commissioners appointed by you, by authority of the President, to hold a Treaty or Treaties with the Sioux Indians, for the purchase of a portion of their lands, which lie on the West side of the Mississippi river; beg leave respectfully to Report.

That upon their having concluded an unsuccessful effort to purchase the lands of the Medewakanton band of Sioux, (the proceeding in, and result of which they have submitted in a separate report) they commenced a consultation with the Half-breeds of the Sioux nation, with a view to the extinguishment of their title to a tract of three hundred and seven thousand two hundred acres, reserved to them by the Treaty of 1830, between the United States and the Sioux, and other tribes of Indians, and which is bounded by the Mississippi river thirty two miles, including in that line the whole extent of the bend or arm of the river, called Lake Pepin, and extending back fifteen miles. Some of the half breed families reside upon this tract and have erected comfortable buildings and made good farms. Some of them read and write and are thrifty people, and among them are found white men who have intermarried with Half-breed and Sioux women and have numerous children, some of these white men are educated and intelligent, and several of them are members of the territorial legislature of Minnesota.

those of mixed blood are totally averse to being classed with the Indians, and could not be induced to unite with them in any treaty by which their interests might be affected.

Upon meeting them in Council, Your Commissioners enquired whether a majority of the Half-breeds were present or were represented by persons properly authorized? A committee of five, three of whom were half-breeds and two white men who were married to half-breed or Sioux women by whom they have children, came forward and by their chairman presented a paper, which they represented to be the proceedings of a public meeting of the half-breeds, and those representing half-breed families, which is appended to the Treaty accompanying this report. It shews the views of those attending the meeting in relation to the description of persons entitled to claim as Half-breeds under the treaty of 1837, and as it will be seen that they do not confine the right to persons properly called half-breeds, it is proper to observe here, that it is alledged by disinterested persons versed in the Sioux language, that they have no word, which expresses definitely the degree of relationship to either race, in which those of mixed blood stand, and that they understand our term, half-breeds as including all of mixed blood. A number of the halfbreed women have intermarried with white men and to exclude their children would be considered by the half-breeds generally, as great injustice. Your Commissioners would therefore respectfully recommend that their views be adopted in any future designation of persons entitled to participate

in the benefits of the treaty accompanying this report.—

The paper presented by the committee above mentioned appoints the Hon. H. H. Sibley, (territorial delegate to Congress from Minnesota) to negotiate and conclude a treaty with your Commissioners, for and on behalf of the Half breeds in addition to which Mr. Sibley presented an appointment and authority in writing, signed by the half breeds; and also a power of attorney of antecedent date, authorising him to sell their lands, both of which are appended to the treaty and will accompany it.

It will be seen by the report of their Secretary, that your Commissioners at the commencement of their intercourse with these people agreed to recognise Mr. Sibley as their representative, but said that in addition to his signature to any treaty that should be agreed upon, they would require the signatures of all who attended the treaty as half breeds. Your Commissioners then enquired how they would receive a proposal to pay them the whole proceeds of the sale of their lands, when surveyed and sold by the government as other public lands are, subject to a deduction of all expences incurred in surveying and selling them? This was promptly declined, (as your Commissioners had foreseen it would be.) They then offered one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for a cession of the half breed lands. This was treated as hardly a serious offer, it was insisted that their land is much more valuable

now than when Gov.r Doty, in 1841, agreed to give them two hundred thousand dollars for it, and pay for the improvements in addition, and they attached a great increase of value to it because it had been ascertained that it contained valuable deposits of lead and copper ore, as an evidence of which Mr. Sibley subsequently shewed your Commissioners a letter from D. D. Owen Esq. a geologist in the service of the government, in which he states that before writing it, he had made his official report, so that you will be in possession of the information upon which the allegation that these are mineral lands is founded, in a more enlarged form: And altho your Commissioners attached no additional value to this land because of its alledged mineral riches, they considered it as an important reason for effecting a purchase of it before individuals should be induced to tamper with the half breeds for permission to work the mines under their authority.

In addition to what was said in council with these people and Mr. Sibley as their representative, your Commissioners in subsequent conversations with ~~Mr. Sibley~~ him became satisfied that they could obtain a cession of their title, for the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, without any stipulation for paying for the improvements, and for no less sum, they therefore offered that amount, which after consultation with the Half-breeds Mr. Sibly agreed to accept.

In preparing the details of the treaty your Commissioners found it difficult to satisfy Mr. Sibley as to the manner

in which the proportions of the money to be paid under the treaty, which should be found due to infants, should be invested or disposed of - they proposed to invest it bearing interest until the infants should be of the proper age to receive it themselves, but this was objected to, as not affording a sufficient income to raise and educate them, and finally it was found inexpedient to insert any provision on the subject in the treaty; but your Commissioners would respectfully recommend that great caution be observed to prevent those portions of the money from falling into the hands of irresponsible persons, under pretence of guardianship or otherwise, for one of your Commissioners in the course of his administration of the Indian superintendency in Iowa, found cases in which guardians and Trustees of half breed women and children, had squandered all their money, and neither the principal or securities were, or ever had been able to refund it. And your Commissioners have received information here, from well informed white men, of cases in which such funds have been placed in the hands of officers of the army, who have died or left the service, without paying over any portion of the money placed in their hands to the persons entitled. And it is to such cases that the Medewakanton band of Sioux allude, in saying in their written statement of grievances handed to your Commissioners, "We omitted to mention that when the treaty of 1837 was made we gave money to our

half-breeds; which was not given to them by the Commissioners, but delivered in many cases to improper persons, who have carried it off, and our relations have consequently lost it all. We wish this amount ascertained and paid."

Your Com^rs deem it their duty respectfully to recommend, that the enquiry suggested be made, and if the fact is found to be as alledged by the Indians, that the money be paid to the persons entitled or their proper representatives.

It is important to the easy and safe management of the intercourse of the government with the Indians, that their high estimate of the character of their "Great Father", should be maintained, they very generally attribute all injustice done them to his subordinates, and have great confidence that when their complaints reach him their grievances will be redressed.

Your Commissioners, before closing this Report, would explain, that in recommending the adoption of the views of the half-breeds in relation to the person entitled under that denomination to participate in the proceeds of the sale of their lands, they do not mean to recommend the exclusion of those of mixed blood, "who have been brought up as Indians and always lived as Indians."

They transmit with this Report the treaty concluded with the half-breeds - All which is respectfully submitted.

John Chambers
Alex Ramsey

Mendota, Minnesota Terry
Oct. 15th 1849

1849

Copy
of names attached
to treaty negotiated between
Commrs - Chambers &
Ramsay for the U S
& H H Sibley for
Sioux Half breeds -
on 9th Oct 1849

also
of the names signed
to powers of attorney
from said Half
breeds - to Mr Sibley,
dated 7 Nov 1848
& 8 Oct 1849.

A List of names appended to the treaty concluded at Mendota in the Territory of Minnesota, on the 9th day of October 1849, by John Chambers and Alexander Ramsey Commissioners for the United States, of the one part, and the Hon Henry H. Sibley and the Half breeds of the Sioux Nation of Indians of the other part.

John Chambers
Alex Ramsey } Commissioners

Henry H. Sibley, for
and on behalf of the
Half Breeds

F. Labath, himself & 7 Children
J. Campbell, for self & 7 Children
Augustin his mark Rock
F. Prescott, in behalf of 10 Half Breed Child
J. Wells, in behalf wife 7 Children
H. Moons in behalf wife 2 Children
Alex Faribault, & wife 7 Children
Henry his mark Ballard for wife & 4 Children
Joseph his mark Brisson for wife & 9 Children
Oliver his mark Cratte for wife & 7 Children
Oliver his mark Faribault, self & 5 Children
Francois his mark Lapointe for wife & 5 Children
Charles his mark St Antoine for wife & 4 Children
Joseph his mark J. Frazier

over

Joseph his × mark Trevencalle, self & 2 Children
Baptiste his × mark Hamarais, for wife
Hypolete Dupieces, for wife & 4 Children
Wm. Laidlaw, for 11 Children, 1 Grand Child
A. Robertson, for wife & 6 Children
Louis his × mark Martin, for 8 Children & 1 Grand Child
Louis his × mark Bourcier
Frederick Hribarnet, for self & wife
Lucy Bailly
Emilie Rose
A. Graham, for self & 1 Child
Joseph his × mark Laframboise Jun
Peter his × mark Felix, for himself & 6 Children
Vitale his × mark Bezee, for 2 Children

A List of names appended to a power of Attorney from Half Breed Lion Indians to Henry A. Libby, dated October 8th 1849. —
Mendaymakanton, Wakpacoota and Sisseton Bands.

Wm. Henry Forbes, for Agnes Forbes & 1 Child
Alexis Bailly, for Lucy Bailly.
Joseph R. Brown, for his wife & six Children
J. Prescott, for 10 Children
B. St. Brisbois, for his wife Theresa
Hagne Moores, for his wife & 1 Child
Joseph x Bisson, for his wife & 6 Children
François x La Pointe, for his wife & 5 Children
François x Gervelle, for 3 Children
Charles x Monpeau, for 1 Child

over

Thomas x Provencall, for himself & 2 Children
Charles x St Antoine, for his wife & 3 Children
Scott Campbell, himself & 7 Children.
Collin Campbell - 2 -
James Bonk - 1 -
A. J. Campbell, myself & 2 Children
Oliver x Racicott, for his wife & 5 Children
Pierre x Raillion, for 3 Children
Vital x Boyer, for 2 Children
Andrew x Godfrey, for his wife & 2 Children
Wm. Lindlaw. 18 Children
Pierre x Felix, for his wife & 5 Children
J x Morijean
H. x Billard, for his wife & 4 Children
Oliver Shibault & Harriet his wife & 4 Children
Frederick Shibault & Margaret his wife
Ursula x Langevain
Hypolite Dupuis, for wife & 4 Children
Jos Ronville & wife & 4 Children
Louis x Martin, for 8 Children
John x Moses, for wife, himself & 1 Child
Olivier x Coutlé, for wife & 7 Children.
John H Brown, for wife
Alex Shibault & wife, 5 Children
George Shibauer (alone)
Jack x Frazier
Joseph x Robinette, for 1 Child
Joseph x Comsolle
Angelique x Comsolle

over

Joseph Wells, in behalf of wife & seven Children
Antoine Rinville & 3 Children
Michel Rinville
Jean Bt Rinville
Rosalin Rinville
D Campbell & wife & 2 Children
M McLeod, for wife & 3 Children
Henry J Osterly & son
Mathew Welch
Sarah Welch
Francois Roi & 3 Children
Louis x Martin Sr. & wife & 1 child
Benj x Gamme, for wife & child
Louis x La Croix, for wife & 2 Children
Norma Crawford
Gabriel Rinville & 2 Children
Louis La Bell, for 3 Children
Francois Dumais, for 5 Children
Levi Bird - for his son -
Augustin x Rock & Pauline Rock
Baptiste x Rock
Joseph x Rock & wife & 3 Children
Louis x Rock wife & 2 Children
S. J. Hindley
Antoine Hindley
Peter Austibose & 3 Children
H. L. Drisman Board 3 Children
Xavier Thermier, for self & 3 Children
Narcisse Thermia

over

Angelique Bremier
Josette Bremier
Jos x Laframbois Jr
Jos x Laframbois, for his wife & 3 children
William Campbell, for himself & Both Sisters
James R. Clemet, for his 2 children
Geo x Commanger, for wife & child
Richa x Edward, for his wife
Ann x Frazier
François his mark Labathe & 9 children

A list of names appended to a power of Attorney from the Sioux Half Breeds to Henry H Sibley, dated November 7th 1848 — Medawah Kanton, Wahpacoota, Wahpeton and Sisseton bands.

J. B. Beauchemin, for his wife "Lucan"
Charles Moreau
G. Henry Hirb.
Agnes Forbes
James R Clennett
James his x mark Thompson, in right of his children Sarah & George Thompson, and his ward Lucy Welch.
Alexis Bailly on behalf of his wife Lucy and her children
F. Labath, for himself & children
D. Fembaults
Thomas Odell, on behalf of his wife Elizabeth
Ottis Wright. Mary Talley
My wife Warren Nordbie

over

S Campbell Senr
Joseph R Brown in behalf of his wife Susan
and Children.
Pierre La Chapelle for himself and five Children
Theophilus La Chapelle
Wm Mitchell in behalf of his wife and four Children
Therese Boisbois for himself and five Children
Ira B Bemson, in behalf of his five Children
Art La Chapelle
Joseph Godfrois, for his behalf wife & child
Pauline La Chapelle, herself & child
Pelagie La Chapelle, for P. La Chapelle admr
Bernard La Chapelle
Antoine Grignon
Polite Grignon
Adriange Grignon, self & daughter
Frederick La Chapelle
Chas Lizanne
George Lizanne
Emily Doucmare
Olivez Poribault
Ernest Poribault
Gabriella Poribault
Joseph Poribault
Pelazi Poribault
Joseph Montrault } Tonjile Joseph
Joret Montrault } Elaine Montrault
R J. Poribault
Peter Poribault

over

Henry Reland, for wife & four Children
Thomas Alexis & 2 Children
Angelique Alexis
Henry Lord.
Charles St Antoine, for his wife Margaret Provincelle & 4 Children
Antoine Provincelle
Tom Provincelle
Angelique Provincelle
George Provincelle
James Wells, in behalf of wife & 7 Children
Augustin Rock, in behalf of himself & 2 Children
Joseph Rock - four in family
Lewis Rock - four in family
Thomas Robinson & wife
Francis La Point - six in family
Duncan Campbell - eight in family
Joseph Bezon - Eight in family
Benj A. Dyonne, and in behalf of wife and child Alexis Dyonne
Henry Roger, for wife and children
Charles La Pointe
Pt La Pointe
Scott Campbell Jun
Hepolit Campbell
Baptist Campbell
Margaret Campbell
Mary Campbell
A. L. Campbell, for himself and 2 children

over

Collin Campbell
Wm Henry Forbes, in behalf of his 2 Children
{Gabriella Renville & Child
Verena Cranford & Children} by Joseph R Brown
Pierre Romilliard, for his three Children
Joseph Provincelle
Lewis Anger in behalf of his six Children
Joseph Montour, for wife and four Children
Ivy Prescott {Niram Prescott
P. Prescott, in behalf of three of his Children
and one apprentice Lewis Demine.
Francis Chevallier, for his child Magdeline,
Alexander D Campbell
and for his three Children}
Aby Faribault & wife & five Children
Aby Graham, by Aby Faribault
Joseph Laframboise wife & Children
Hypolite Dupins, on behalf of his wife
& 4 Children
Joseph Rinville wife & 5 Children
Art Rinville & 3 Children
Joseph Frazer, one child
Joseph Champagne
Madam La Marsh
Alexis P. Bailey
Henry G. Bailey
Oliver Cratt, in behalf of his family, eight in number
Isabel Bailey
Sarah Graham

over

Rosalie Rinviele
Marguite Renviele
Michel Rinviele
J. Bte. Renville
Louis Martin wife & Children
Martin McLord on behalf of 3 Children & wife
Jos Comolle
Joseph Robenette
Jean Bt Lord
Pierre Campbelle
Magdeline Campbell.