



AN
ADDRESS,

DELIVERED

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ONEIDA INDIANS,

SEPTEMBER 24, 1810,

BY SAMUEL ^RBLATCHFORD, D. D.

TOGETHER WITH THE

REPLY,

BY CHRISTIAN, A CHIEF OF SAID NATION.

Published by request of the Board of Directors of the NORTHERN
MISSIONARY SOCIETY, and the proceeds of the sale, devoted
by the Author, to the Benefit of the Society.

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Advertisement.

THE Public will please to allow for the peculiarity of style necessary in an address of this nature. The people to whom it was delivered would not have understood a more polished composition; and the opportunity of speaking to them was too precious not to be improved in that manner likely to make the greatest impression.

S. B.

Lansingburgh, October 19, 1810.



ADDRESS, &c.

CHILDREN!

YOUR fathers, the Missionary Society, have sent us among you. We rejoice to meet you here to-day, and to see you all well. Our hearts are glad when Indians are happy. We cheerfully spend our money to make you wise and good. We send among you a schoolmaster to teach your children, and a minister of the gospel to shew you the way to heaven. We all pray for you, that the Great God may bless you; that Jesus, the Redeemer, may save your souls, and that you may be received into glory when you die.

Children! We wish to tell you what is in our hearts, for we desire to see you prosper. We have all the same Maker. The same Great Spirit who made *us*, made *you*—he made all mankind—You are our brothers. God hath blessed us, and we are happy. We wish you to share in our blessings, but you must be willing to do your duty that you may be happy.

Children! You must be industrious. The earth is ready to bring forth its fruits; God waters it with his rain, and warms it with his sun—but the earth must be ploughed, and the corn must be planted, or there will be no harvest. Those who do not labor will be hungry, and have no meat; they will be naked, and have no raiment; their children will cry, and not be satisfied. Every body will blame idle people—nobody will love their company, but those who are as idle as themselves. The Spirit who made them is angry with them, and has commanded that they who would not work, should not eat, God will also hereafter, drive away all slothful people. You, who are parents, listen! God hath given you children, and he expects that you should take care of them. He says, he that careth not for his own is worse than an infidel; but if you are idle you cannot take care of your children, and God will speak his mind concerning you. Now what an

awful thing will it be for God to judge you to be worse than infidels.

Children ! We are glad to see for ourselves that some of your nation are very industrious : and they feel the advantage of it. They build good houses—enclose much land—and their children are well clothed. They have oxen, and horses, and corn, and wheat : They are happy in their houses in the winter by their fires, and are cheerful in the summer laboring in their fields. They beg no hay, no corn, no meat—they have enough. They gather their meat in the summer, and provide their food in the harvest, and so have some to give to those who are in want. We advise you all to walk in the same path ; you have much land—clear it—make use of it—and you will have no need to sell it to white people : you will have money enough without selling your land, and when you die your children will not be chased away—they will have property enough at home, and will inherit the pleasant fields of their fathers.—Where *you* planted, *they* will plant.—Where *you* hunted, *they* will hunt ; and they will keep the grass green upon your graves.

Your fathers are also desirous that your children should be taught to read, and write, and speak the English language—white people are able to do this, and so have many advantages. They can improve their minds in knowledge—speak their thoughts at a distance, and in many instances can defend themselves from wicked men who would cheat and ruin them. You know you cannot often see the best path for want of learning. Let your children then go to school. The Missionary Society have employed a schoolmaster to teach your children. They pay him wages for his trouble.—They ask nothing of you, but to send your children every day to school, and when your children have learnt they will be able to help you, and help themselves.

But there is another word ; and hearken !—If your children learn the English language, they will be able to read and understand the scriptures. Children ! the Bible is a blessed book ; it was written by the Spirit of

God—and it is in this book that God has told us all his heart ! He is the Indian's friend, and *our* friend. He would lead us in the straight road to heaven ; and in this book he has shewn us the way. This book is able to make you wise to salvation. The Bible will open *both* your eyes. The histories of the Bible make us to know how God made man at first—how man sinned against him—what was the condescension of the Great Spirit after man sinned against him, and the glorious method which God took to save all who should believe, and bring them to heaven. How strong are the words of this book ! They will hold us up if we obey them ; but if we disobey them, they will cast us down and we shall find no help.—They are the words of this book which are preached by your minister, and if your children learn the English language they will be able to hear and understand the word of God when it is preached ; they will have no need of an interpreter—you will know for yourselves.

Let not your children then *play at home* when they should be reading and spelling and writing *at school*. These things cannot be learned in a day. Your children must go many days—and they must go every day. For, if they go to school *one* day and stay at home *another day*, they will only see with one eye ! And hearken ! when your children are at school if they will go *crooked* they must be whipped, and you must not be mad, until you see all straight. You must teach them to love their schoolmaster. He will be their friend—he will not be mad with them ; but try to open their eyes—he will make them see in the dark. The sun will shine upon them, and they will behold the light.

Children, listen ! Be careful also to walk in a straight line before your families, that they may walk straight after you. Your fathers the Missionary Society fear that you do not go straight before your children.—That you walk sometimes on *one* side and sometimes on the *other* side—This will not be for your good, nor for the good of your children. Bad fathers and bad mothers make bad children. They ruin their children, their bodies and their souls. Children, hearken ! Your

land grows less and less, and your children are in darkness, because so many of you love strong waters better than your land and better than your children.— Drunkenness shuts up both your eyes, and then you fall down and are trodden upon. - Wicked people wish to see you down. They would not strike you with a tomahawk, because the strong hand of justice would strike them; but they poison you with strong water little by little; and you love this poison. Now what can we do for you if you will love and drink this poison? O children! we will try to bring you into the good way, by telling you, you are in the way to ruin. Your nation is not *now* what it *once* was. Once your men were active in the chase. They were swift as the springing deer, rushing from the thicket, and fleeing toward the western hills. Now many of them are often seen creeping about stores and taverns, destroying their health, spoiling their character and ruining their happiness. A drunkard cannot live upon the earth and be happy. Nor can he be received into heaven when he dies; for God hath said, that no drunkard shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. There is therefore no place left for him but hell! And will you, children, kill yourselves on earth—shut the door of heaven against you when you die, and so pass away at last into everlasting misery?

Children, listen! You must love one another, and not quarrel. You must live like brothers and keep the chain of affection bright; then it will shine like the sun. But if you quarrel with one another, this chain will rust, and be as dark as the night when there is no moon nor stars. Quarrels will also break the chain and part you one from another—Its links will be scattered over the face of the earth, and then you will be overcome and wicked people will run over you. Know one another's minds, and act together as brothers. Let no one keep his own heart warm only, but warm one another's hearts. Love your chiefs, and take the counsel of your wise men. They are your fathers. They will go before you; and if they be good men they will go straight. Be honest to one another; your

land is the property of the nation. Let not one make himself rich, to make his brother poor.

But, above all things, children, remember your Maker and love the Lord Jesus. God is your great Father, and you should not put him out of your minds. O! he is a glorious Father and his heart is warm towards you. He made your land and the trees which grow upon it: he made the sun to warm your land and make it fruitful: he makes the rain to water the earth, that the grass may grow for your horses and your oxen, and that the corn and the wheat may grow for you. He made you also. He made you to be men and women, He hath given you bodies, and he hath given you souls. He hath stretched out his strong arm and preserved your lives. Many other people are dying and are dead; but you are alive. Why do you not all remember God? God hath remembered you. And he hath opened his eyes upon you, and looked into your hearts. He hath seen that you forget him; and because you forget him, he might strike you with his strong hand, and then you would never be able to rise up; but he has sent you a Saviour, and given you his only Son who lay in his bosom, to die for you. His name is Jesus. If you believe in this Saviour, and repent of your sins and return unto the Lord, then God will forgive your sins for Christ's sake, and his strong hand will not strike you down, but lift you up.

Children hearken! The Missionary Society have sent to you a minister to shew you these things. He is a good man and will lead you straight. Our eyes were open when we sent him among you; and he loves you and your nation. Wicked men tried to drive him from your fires, because he loves you; but their arm was weak. Wicked men said he was a bad man. Your fathers have come to look through him, and we see that he has gone straight. He will go before you, and you must go after him. He wants nothing of you but that you should follow him. He will put the most glorious light before your eyes—and when you ask, “what shall we do to be saved?” he will point you to him who suffered for poor sinners, and say, “Believe on

the Lord Jesus, and ye shall be be saved." The Missionary Society pay your minister for teaching you the word of God. He must not buy your land, nor trample upon you. If he should take your land, or any thing that is yours, your fathers, the Society, would drive him away as a bad man, and give you your land again. But he is a good man, and will be a wall around about you.

Children ! You must listen to your minister, and come to church every Sabbath day. God will say that you are bad men if you do not walk straight on the Sabbath day. We find that some of the men walk crooked on the Sabbath day, and let their women go to church without them. This should not be so. You must all come, the men as well as the women, to the place where the Great Spirit has promised to meet you and to bless you. If you do not come your minister will want to do you good and will not be able. This will grieve him to the heart, and he will weep. But above all you will grieve that good Spirit who saith, " My son, give me thine heart."

Children ! God has been pleased to open the eyes of some of you, you have seen his beauty and your hearts are warm towards him. Let us speak a word to the members of the church. Do you love God and believe in Christ ? Do you hope that your sins are forgiven ? O thank God who hath shewn you mercy ! go on to love the Saviour. Jesus will take you to heaven in a little time. Love one another. Talk much with one another about the love of Jesus, and what he has done for your precious and never dying souls : then you will know one anothers minds, and you will walk strong. Pray to God every day. Pray for your nation that they may also know the Lord. Pray for us, and pray for yourselves that your faith may not fail.

We have only one word more. We wish to speak to the chiefs. You walk first among your brothers. There is now no need of leading them to war ; but you must lead them in good ways, and try to go before them towards heaven. When any of the nation go wrong speak your hearts to them—tell them of the ad-

vantage of loving God—and one another : and try to throw away from among you all the strong water. Some other nation, will drink no rum and they are growing up to be good men, and strong, and rich—on this subject we advise you to call a counsel and with strong minds speak strong words. If your children will hearken, then they will be happy, and if they will not hearken still you have done your duty.

Children! We now wish you all well. May God, our Great Father bless you, and the Lord Jesus save you, and the Holy Spirit bring you and us to the same heaven at last. Then we will sing together the same song. Our chain will be always bright, and our hearts be always warm. *Amen.*

REPLY of CHRISTIAN, second Chief, in answer to the above—taken in short-hand from the Interpreter, by ICHABOD S. SPENCER, Esq.

FATHERS!

You have been sent here by our fathers the Missionary Society, to see how our father the minister walks before us. By this our eyes are opened to see that the Missionary Society try to do good to our nation, and to the cause of religion. You have come and seen for yourselves. You find our minister faithful and you see that we are well pleased with him. We are happy that it is so.

Fathers—We are glad to see you here among us. We rejoice that you have told us in what path to walk in order to please God. And we hope that many of us will long remember your words, consider upon them and get great good from your instruction. We hope the encouragement you have given us to-day will do some good.

We are more and more convinced that the Missionary Society are determined to do us good. We are very thankful that you have spoken so many good words to

us ; these are the sentiments of the chiefs, the warriors, and the nation. These words of yours have brought to us the remembrance of what we have heard of our fathers before and we are happy.

We know that your words are true ; and that if we drink strong waters we shall not work ; we shall not be industrious, and cannot support our families. But if we let drinking alone, and attend to labor, our families and our children will have bread.

Fathers—We are not able to repeat all the good words you have said, but all of us who have heard them have laid them up in our hearts, are pleased with them and are thankful for your kindness. We are glad, fathers, that you have tried to turn us into the right path. It was necessary that our eyes should be opened to behold the light. You have told us the right way and we are glad. Our great chief has told us, we should consult with our warriors how to answer you. We have done so, and our warriors are convinced, that all you have told us is true. The warriors are thankful, fathers, to hear you speak these things. They all say they will try to turn from their bad ways and take the right path. The members of the church also feel the same impressions. The speaker is one of the church. He is glad you have put light before him, and whilst he professes to love Jesus, he will remember your good words as long as he lives.

Fathers—By you we send our thanks to our fathers the Missionary Society. Inform them that we have found out that their intentions towards us are good. As you have said to us so has our faithful minister preached to us every Sabbath. He has watched over us, and tried to do us good.

Fathers—You told us the other day at Doctor Stockton's that when we came here to the talk to-day, we might say any thing with a free heart. We mention another subject. These things we make known, fathers, and perhaps you can assist us. There is a tavern here in our settlement and it is a great injury to us. Our warriors and our children will go to it. We want it removed. The land is ours, and this tavern makes

confusion among us. It breeds quarrels. In particular on the Lord's day, our men often stop there while on their way to church, and they cannot get away; and they often stop too in going from church. Our warriors speak and wish the same thing. They say, if Indians will drink strong waters let them go off Indian lands—'tis worse to drink them here.

Fathers—We believe you have heard how it goes among us, though you were far off. You know that we are liable to go wrong.

You tell us you have chosen us a schoolmaster to teach our children. We are happy that you have done so. We submit to your better wisdom. We know you are best able to choose a good one. If the one you have chosen does wrong we can inform you of it. If we had chosen for ourselves, we might have chosen badly.

Fathers—you have told us we must send our children every day to school. We shall do so. We hope to grow wiser by your advice, and that our children may learn to read God's word.

Fathers—We rejoice that we have met together. We thank you for the good words you have spoken, and should be very happy if you would get your talk printed and send it to us, that the nation may read it, and our hearts be warmed by your good words.*

* This is deciphered from the character as taken down. Tho' imperfect at present, if it had justice, it would read well. Enough is given to shew that he thought more than is here expressed, and probably what seems but hints here, were bold and fully expressed sentiments and ideas in his own tongue. I. S. S.

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