

Bangor Novr 30<sup>th</sup> 1810

Revd & Dear Sir, I received with peculiar pleasure, yours of Sept 20<sup>th</sup>. I have delayed to answer, that I might have opportunity of farther information relative to the Indians accordingly I was greatly favored last week. The Indians convened in this town, to receive their corn from the State - Genl Blake, the agent for the state, being present, in whom the Indians appear to place much confidence. I informed him of my desire to converse with some of the principal men of the Tribe, to see if something could be effected towards fixing them in agricultural habits, & the idea was pleasing to him - a number of the Indians convened & I read to the Genl & them, a part of your letter, such as I thought suitable to communicate to them - they made enquiry to know particularly what was designed - they appeared pleased with the proposals beyond what I expected.

Bangor Novr 30th 1810

Revd & Dear Sir,

I received with peculiar pleasure, yours of Sept 20th. I have delayed to answer, that I might have opportunity of farther information relative to the Indians accordingly I was greatly favored last week. The Indians convened in this town, to receive their corn from the state General Blake, the agent for the state, being present, in whom the Indians appear to place much confidence. I informed him of my desire to converse with some of the principal men of the Tribe, to see if something could be effected towards fixing them in agricultural habits, & the idea was pleasing to him - a number of the Indians convened & I read to the general - & them, a part of your letter, such as I thought suitable to communicate to them - They made enquiry to know particularly what was designed - They appeared pleased with the proposals beyond what expected -

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society (Local Code: Coll. S-5824 Misc. Box 146/5)

Creation Date: Nov. 30, 1810

Description: John Sawyer letter to Rev. Jenks about talks he's had with the Penobscot Indians about agricultural training and settling in one place.

and I stated that I would obtain what information I could between this, & their return in the Spring. (They were going to the salt-water to spend the winter) & I supposed they were gone but they were so interested in the business, that 8 or 9 of them, 2 of their Captains, met at Dear-Boyd, who informed me, that Gen<sup>l</sup> Blake desired me to call - I met them with the Gen<sup>l</sup> & Dear-Boyd they desired to be informed what was proposed - We stated to them particularly the desire that they should settle, and <sup>cultivate</sup> their land - have a school for their children, & live like white people - and that we wanted to know of them if they were willing to settle on their lands & receive farming utensils & if assistance could be obtained. They would know if they must buy what ever they received, & expressed a jealousy that it was a design to deprive them of their lands but being assured to the contrary, & that we would apply to the Gen<sup>l</sup> Government in their behalf - the 2 Captains, Nichola & Soosop, after consulting together some time - Capt Nichola spoke to the others, &

And I stated that I would obtain what information I could between this, & their actions in the Spring, (They were going to the salt-water to spend the winter) & I supposed they were gone but they were so interested in the business, that 8 or 9 of them, 2 of their Captains met at Dear-Boyd, who informed me, that Gen<sup>l</sup> Blake desired me to call - I Met them with the Gen<sup>l</sup> & Dear-Boyd, they desired to be informed what was proposed - We stated to them particularly the desire, that they should settle, and <sup>cultivate</sup> their land - have a school for their children, & live like white people - And that we wanted to know of them if they were willing to settle on their lands & receive farming utensils & if assistance could be obtained. They would know if they must buy whatever they received, & expressed a jealousy that it was a design to deprive the of their lands- but being assumed to the contrary, & that we would apply to the Gen<sup>l</sup> government in their behalf - the Captains, Nichola & Soosop - after consulting together some time - Captain Nichola spoke to the others, &



then, in English says - we are willing  
The appearance was very favorable  
to the object proposed - They expressed  
a desire that Genl Blake, should be  
appointed to superintend, & instruct  
them in their settlement, should  
any thing be done -  
Sir what you proposed, I think,  
ingeneral, is very judicious - I believe  
something of importance  
may be effected for this wretched  
people - but no doubt great patience  
& perseverance will be needful - & considerable  
expense - The 3 Captains  
were all in favor - & said the Governor  
who was not present, would be forward  
in the object proposed - There are  
about 250 of the Pnobscoot Indians,  
exclusive of the St. John, &  
I hope Dear Sir, to see you between  
this & Spring, on my way to Boston  
& converse further upon the subject  
There have been two hopeful converts,  
since I saw you, in the wilderness  
where I have labored &  
My most cordial love to your, 2  
dear benavalent friends, & thanks to  
them for their precious gift, 7 Bibles  
to the new settlements, I have & shall  
distribute them most cheerfully -  
I am Dear Sir, yours in the Gospel  
Wm Jenks = John Sawyer

then, in English says - we are willing.  
The appearance was very favorable  
to the object proposed - They expressed  
a desire that Genl Blake should be  
appointed to superintend, & instruct  
them in their settlement, should  
any thing be done -  
Sir what you proposed, I think,  
ingeneral, is very judicious - I believe  
something of importance  
may be effected for this wretched  
people - But not doubt great patience  
& perseverance will be needful - & considerable  
expense - The 3 Captains  
were all in favor - & said the Governor  
who was not present, would be forward  
in the object proposed - There are  
about 250 of the Pnobscoot Indians  
exclusive of the St. John, &  
I hope, dear sir, to see you between  
this & spring, on my way to Boston  
& converse for them upon the subject.  
There have been two hopeful converts,  
since, I saw you, in the wilderness  
where I have labored &  
My most cordial love to your, 2  
dear benavalent friends, & thanks to  
them for their precious gift, 7 Bibles  
to the new settlements - I have & shall  
distribute them most cheerfully -  
and am, Dear Sir, yours in the Gospel  
Revd WM Jenks = John Sawyer