Old Town Nov. 5, 1829.

My dear Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the enclosed paper. It contains the substance of the answer the Indians give to the proposals you made; as that answer was interpreted to me in a full Council of this Tribe by John Neptune, the Chief; & by me reduced to writing at their request.

I have the honour to be,

very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Vigil St. Barber.
By the Gov. & Indian in Council.

In answer to the application made by John Gillan Esq. in the name of this State, that we, the Penobscot Tribe of Indians, would agree to the Government of this State our two Townships, we say as follows.

The white people have repeatedly asked us to dispose of our lands, and we have sold to them one portion after another till we have but very little left. The prospect is that in two or three generations there will not be enough for our children. To us it looks strange that white people knowing this should ask us to sell nearly half we have left, when at the same time they have in this State so many thousand acres of wild land.

If we do not, their lands were cleared & settled and consequently they wanted more, we should be willing to yield them a share of our own, for we are like those from whom God made us see. Yet this is the case, leave to us this little bit of land, the miserable remains of the wide lands our fathers left us enough to sleep on while we live & to bury our bones when we die — And what else white people suppose we must think when we see they wish to take from us one piece of land after another, till we have no place to stand on, unless it is to drive us, our wives, & our little children away? But if so great & so free a country as this would extinguish us, we have no chance anywhere else; we or our children must sooner or later be driven into the salt water & perish.
But you say it is necessary that new Townships be settled, & that there should be taverns on the military road. Have not the Indians tried already to settle the Township you want most because they needed it for its advantages of farming, hunting & fishing? Our Governor undertook this. Why did he not stay there? Because bad white men, in his absence, continually alarming his family, at last frightened his wife & children away. Nor was this all. He built with much labor constructed an ear-saw with which great lots of fish were taken, & quantities of them salted down. This they destroyed. They also dug up & carried away his provision, his pork, his fish, his potatoes. Finally, they burnt his cabins to the ground. It is treatment of this sort that has prevented the Indians hitherto from settling on some of their Islands, & on their Townships. By & by they will try again. As to opening taverns on the military road, Indians have had talk among themselves some time ago. They know that white men who travel that road must want taverns. They will such men to be accommodated. They have done so last year & this present year what they were able by giving permits to white men to open taverns at Metachamishi Point, where it was most needed. Next year they will continue with their agent to have other taverns provided where & there they are wanted, so that travellers shall have no reason to complain on this point. Thus we have done, and are willing to do all that is reasonable to accommodate our white brethren. Why then do they
were as if they wished to reduce us to extremity? — When the United States were fighting for liberty, Gen. Washington sent for the Chiefs of our Tribe, and gave them his promise that, if we would remain neutrals in the war, he would secure to us our rights. We have been faithful to our white brethren & all we ask in return is, that their conduct towards us should be just & reasonable.

Old Town
Nov. 5, 1829