

Bangor June 17th 1833.

To the Governor and the Council of the State of Maine
Gentlemen As Agent for the Penobscot Tribe of Indians
it becomes my duty to acquaint you of a transaction in
relation to the Sale of Some of the Indian Land. On the 13th Inst
the Indians having understood that their Governor and Eight
or nine of the Indians of the Tribe had the day previous Signed
a paper to convey some or all of their Land, Met at their Town
and sent a messenger to request me to meet them there the next day
I did accordingly meet the Governor and thirty Six of the Chiefs,
Captains, and principal Indians of the Tribe on Council on the
14th Inst, and was informed that more than twenty of that number
was on the Island on the 12th Inst, when the pretended purchase took place
and did not know that there was any meeting of the Indians
or that the Commissioners even wished to purchase their Land, that
the Commissioners had never mentioned it to them; but that a
man by the name of Lovejoy (who is as well known at Augusta
as at Old Town) had said to them that he and Messrs Roberts and
Bantlett had been appointed by the State to purchase the Indian
Land and that they would give a large sum of money for
their Townships, that Lovejoy had been on the Island a great part
of the time for a week previous to the 12th Inst, that these Indians
however, being sober men, did not incline to have any thing to
do with Lovejoy about their Land, and they now consider what
has been ^{done} to be without the knowledge or consent of the Tribe
and therefore should not be binding on them. It appears that
this man Lovejoy prevailed on the Governor and several of the Indians
by promising to build them houses &c to sign a conveyance of their
Townships, at the same time he intreated them not to mention
it but to meet him and Tho Bantlett Esq at the Indian School
house at a fixed hour on the 12th Inst to sign a paper, those
of the Indians who had thus agreed went privately, as they say, to
the School house at the time agreed on by them with Lovejoy, two or
three of the Indians about, or near the School house saw them
go in and went in to see what was going on and on finding
that it was the subject of the Sale of their Townships these two
or three opposed it with all their might, the Governor relented
a little and requested that the business be put off until the

next day but Lowrey refused to do so and urged them to sign promising them that the Commissioners would meet them again the next day and would give the Indians Good papers which would perfectly secure them in all their rights; but after getting the paper signed Mr Bartlett and his Assistant returned and have not been seen there since — Some of the Indians who did sign their names put to the same paper the name of John Wepturn St Governor of the Tribe who is absent and has not been at Old Town since March 1832 and also the name of Capt Sockeas who was not on the Island at the time and knew nothing of the meeting —

The Governor and all the Indians who had been made to sign the paper that was pursued on the 14th Inst appeared to be sorry that they had done it and all requested me ^{to} write to the Governor of the State not to take away their land without the consent of the Tribe — The Indians appear to be in great trouble about this business, they say that it has always been usual for the whole Tribe to meet on these occasions and to have some person to explain to them the nature of the contract and that if this trade should be ratified it would create lasting troubles amongst the Indians

It does appear to me to be a most extraordinary transaction and one which deserves almost any other name than that of Indian Treaty. I have seen the Commissioners very frequently this season, and have been often to the Indian Town, was there only a few days previously to the 12th Inst. See some of the Indians at Bayon every day when I am at home; but yet I did not learn or suspect that any thing of the sort was going on until after it had been done, and I am confident that the Commissioners cannot make it appear that one out of twenty of the Penobscot Tribe of Indians even heard of the transaction alluded to until since the 12th Instant — No one denies the power of the State to take the Indians land from them; but the Indians confidently believe, and I am satisfied of the fact, that it is not the intention of the State to take from the Indians their land without their consent, and if so I am confident that the bargain made with ten of the Penobscot Tribe without the knowledge or consent of the Tribe, and that

too under very strong appearances of Bribery & Corruption,
and taken too without any pledge on the part of the State
to the Indians. And nothing by way of Consideration given
except the pledge of an Eresponsible man to a few individual
Indians. I say under these circumstances the bargain relied upon
by the Commissioners cannot in my opinion receive the Sanction
of the Executive part of the Government - I believe it has
been usual heretofore for the Commissioners to notify the Indians
that they wish to treat with them and the Indians if inclined to
trade select their men to meet the Commissioners and when
a treaty is made and agreed to on both parts it is Signed by
the Commissioners on one part and by the Indians selected for
that purpose on the other part and a duplicate of the agreement
is given to the Indians in which is stipulated the amount
to be paid to the Indians and the time of Payment: but
not so in this new and novel mode of treating with the
Penobscot Indians, they had not even a copy of the paper
Signed left with them, nor does those who signed understand
what compensation was to be paid to the Indians. They
appeared to understand well that each of those who signed
the paper was to have a horse bought by the State but they
did not appear to know what the Trade was to have - I called
on one of the Commissioners to learn what had been done
and he refused to inform me. It is said, and the Commissioners
say that they have lost the Indian land but do not tell the
terms on which it was purchased - If it be said that I am
Opposed to the Sale of the Indian land to the State for a fair
compensation I answer that it is not true I should prefer
to have them sell and I believe their Townships may be
sold at a fair price this season - If it be said
that the more the Indians have the worse off they are I say that
twenty five years experience has taught me that property
Judiciously distributed amongst the Indians does them
as much Good and prevents as much suffering as the same
amount would distributed amongst poor white People.

I am Gentlemen with

respects of great respect

Your most Obedt. Servant

Mark Traylor Agent

Mark Twain Esq.
Ag. & Pemberton Johnson
in relation to the sale of
Andrew Lowrie

June 17, 1833



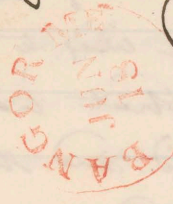
Augusta

Gouverneur Morris

Wm

Saml E Smith Esq

M Easton Esq



Dec 18 1833