Letters and Documents
Related to a Dispute of the
Potawatomi Indians,
St. Louis, March 1815

by William Clark

DOCUMENT NO. AJ-148

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To the Potawatomi of Illinois River

My Friends,

The Great Chief of all the Americans is very sorry that his Youngmen has killed your relations. His Youngmen thought that all the Potawatomi were living on the west side of Illinois River and that all Indians they would meet with would be bad Indians. His Youngmen do not speak your language, nor do they know one Indian from another in the reason your relations were killed, for if his Youngmen had known that they were Potawatomi, they would have not harmed any of their dogs. The Great Chief of all the Americans is willing to come the trade with goods, and would have sent them the more with your relations to his Chief, but his horses are too poor, but will send up the goods in the spring. However, you must now let me know by the Indian girl if the goods will be accepted or not, if you accept, I shall send you the goods, every thing will be done of forgetting, and we will be good friends as usual, if to the contrary I must consider you as enemies, and take proper accordingly.

William Clark
According to your directions I went to Fort Clark and obtained a list of the Potawatamie Indians, the Indian \textit{chief} of the tribe who was made prisoner in that fort by the Rangers. I also delivered to the same Indians four letters from the governor and the commander-in-chief in which they were demanding their being given out and after between the time the Blackfoot was in the middle of the winter.

The \textit{chief} of the Potawatamie tribe of my arrival at Fort Clark came to me, whom I inquired your speech to him, having previously sent the \textit{chief} to him by a runner. Gone looking for the \textit{chief} of the Potawatamie tribe, but when he returned he enclosed a letter.

I was informed by the Indians that the Potawatamie kept the Tabus and were intent on carrying on the war against the Blackfoot, and that they were waiting for the Blackfoot to join them to attack Fort Clark.

I am yours,
[Signature]
Speech of the P. Pattee & Batchuee chief of the P. Nations of Indians residing in Illinois to Governor T. C. Clark - Fort Calhoun 1815.

Dear Friend,

We receive your letter respecting the killing our friends by young men.

Dear Friend,

The killing among all nations the young men are foolish and will not be advised by their chiefs.

We knew it never was your intention to injure us, we would have sent your young men from doing us harm if it was in your power.

Our friends.

We now give you tobacco and find it good and as you之意 covering the ground we will then forget all that is past.

Our friends.

We can you wish to do good, so you have sent home the our relations the Roman chief who was taken from with poor losses and we hope soon will send the other homes home at the same time.

We have names let your hand go on wire at the Fort to companions with Indians we can see that you
do not wish to let ones go. Our fondness had you not joined our party and we are happy to hear that now have not forgot our talks we sent your last fall as we are notice this in want of any thing.

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