

MORAVIAN MISSION ON HARSEN'S ISLAND²⁴

Dear Sir, Permit me to write a few [lines] to You, upon a subject, which is highly important to me & the whole of the Society to which I belong.

I conjecture, before this You have heard already that I am situated here at present at the River St. Clair & am determined to live with the Indians & to instruct them & acquaint them with their God & Creator, so as our Society has already done, among other Indian nations, as is well known to You. For this sole reason I have been sent out by our Society to these poor Gentiles.

Now of needs I must have a fixed place of settlement & in order to acquire this, the Indians, especially the two great chiefs Nangi & Whitanessa, (I suppose both known to you) have delivered the head of Harsens Island over to me & I have their Wampums, for a seated place for me, & those of them who would in time join; this piece of Land, is indeed well situated & fitted for such a purpose, where Indians could live more by themselves.

On delivery I scrupled, & told them, should it happen, that their ancesstors or any of them had given out this small tract already, now in this case They mutually & firmly promised, that they would then, replace or give to him who rightly owned it already, the same quantity of acres, above or before the Sanagokanink, or perhaps somewhere else.

Since this time now, I have received better information of M^r Grusbeck²⁵ who tells me that they have given it away, & that the deed thereof, is lodged in your hands—further that Sanagokanink is in the same deed.

As it is not consistent either with the general adopted character of our Society at large, or with either individual, & therefor likewise against me, to dispute, quarrel or wrangle with any person, I have taken the liberty to ask you about Your sentiments & opinions about the affair, & as You have it in hand, as the acting person, Your information will be of great consequence, & clear the whole matter at once. You will therefore greatly oblige me, to send me a few lines

²⁴ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

²⁵ William Groesbeck, for sketch of whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 306.