

Advent of the New York Indians into Wisconsin

By Albert G. Ellis

The Holland Land Company had, for many years, held the pre-emption right of purchase from the Indians, to most of the land of Western New York, having derived it from Massachusetts originally, subsequently confirmed by the State of New York. A large purchase was made of the Indians, by Phelps and Gorham, of nearly all the lands east of Genesee River. Of the balance, lying *west* of that river, a large cession was made to that company, at a council of the Senecas, held at Geneseo, in Sept. 1797; *excepting certain reservations*. These reservations were large and included the most choice parts of the whole.

"In 1810, the Holland Land Company sold all their pre-emptive right to the Indian reservations to David A. Ogden, for fifty cents per acre." Mr. Ogden and his associates in this purchase were afterward known as the "Ogden Company." Up to 1817, they had succeeded in extinguishing but a part of the Indian title; the large reservations of Cattaraugus, Alleghany, Tonnewanda, Tuscarora, and Buffalo, still remaining. The anxiety of the company to effect the extinguishment of the Indian title to these reservations, and the removal of the Indians, had exhibited itself in various forms, and sundry unsuccessful efforts, for years. In this year, a new plan was conceived, and its accomplishment set on foot, to wit:—to secure in the West, by consent and aid of the