

Albany Register of the 12th Feby, stating that a Treaty of Peace was signed at Ghent on the 24th Decr. I have desired Radenhurst to send you a copy of it. Judging from the circumstantial and clear manner in which the dates, names & other particulars are given, & also the previous state of the Negotiations, by which it appears that all the difficult points had been adjusted by the negociators, & no material obstacle to the conclusion of a peace existed, I cannot but incline to the opinion that it will prove true. Still if so, it is most extraordinary that our Commissioners should have so suddenly changed their tone, & receded from the high pretensions & demands with which they commenced the negotiations & it is only to be accounted for in the prospect of an immediate rupture in Europe, & also serious & alarming nature, could possibly have induced the Ministry to grant terms (I write you in confidence) apparently so repugnant to sound policy, & not only prejudicial to our Indian connexion but endangering not a little, the future interests and safety of the Canadas.

Should the Peace have happened & on the terms which are stated, it will require no small share of prudence & good management with regard to the Indians. The task is rendered the more difficult, from the recent communication which I was especially commanded to make known to them, as a striking proof of our religious observance of the promises made to them, as I wrote you in my last. It is said the Treaty with regard to the Indians (the whole of which, both ours, & those of the Enemy, are included in the pacifications) places every thing on the same footing as before the war. I shall however suspend any further remarks untill the truth or falsehood of the report is ascertained, which very soon must be; till when, conduct yourself with caution on the subject. I fear this dispatch will be too late, to prevent or stop for the present, the announcing to the Indians in Council, the important determination which Government *had resolved on*, in their favour. It is a little hard upon officers commanding to be made the channel of these vacillating communications, having so strong a tend-