

A Petition. Wogiftaule. New-haven. February 22:d AD 1774. Tuefday.

To the Gentlemen, Students of this Colledge, with all humility I present you these few lines for your deliberate Con- siderations, hoping that no one will be offended at this my attempt, Gentlemen, I came to this town, in tending to request for the afsistance of the Publick, so as I might go on with my defign, which to my view is worthy of the Publicks notice, and encouragement. but being some what disappointed, Me thinks that I am obliged to make my Request known to all generous, free hearted, and Publick spirited Gentlemen of this Noble Seat, of Polite learning, and I humbly hope that my attempt will not prove altogether abortive. I have been to several Gentlemen of this town, for advice and it hath pleased them, to tell me, that this time is not proper to make my Request known, as it would not meet with a suitable Encouragement. so I am willing to wait untill next May. when I hope to have the oppertunity of making my Request known to the Generall Afsembly. and then it is to be hoped my Request will meet with a Suitable Encouragement from the Publick.— Gentlemen, since all my present expectations is fixed on you alone, permit me to make known to you my Present Circumstances, which I hope will caufe several, if not all of you, to pity, and help me in this time of Difficulty. Gentlemen, love, and pity to my poor Indian Brethren ^{^ in this part of the world.} has brought me very Low, at present. and I have for this long time been seeking their good. not regarding my own intereft, so as I might be the Inftrument of bringing about the grand Design which I have had in my view, which I hope in due time will be accomplished My design is this. to lead my New England Brethren the poor Natives from these parts, Westward, where there is land Sufficient, where we hope to settle together in peace, and be under some Regulations. at present we have but little Land, and what we have is very poor in general, and we are under no Regulations. we are like people lost, wondering up and down the world vagabond like. and so long as we are under these Circumstances we never can be a happy, nor yet a Wealthy People. neither can we give our minds to Learning. the lack of which keeps us in Poverty and Contempt. I believe that Learning well used will make any People both wealthy, and happy. So Gentlemen, this I have had in my view, and I have the pleasure to enform you that this Design has hitherto met with great Succes.—and I have obtained Land according to My Desire for gratis.—for which I ever retain in my Mind the Worthy Name of Sir William Johnson Baronet. who has been blessed to he[] me, in advising me in this affair, and in speaking in the favour of this Design to the Indians under his Honors inspection, and Gentlemen, let me with humility ~~me~~ tell you that I have received only one dollar from the Indians since I have been labouring for their good, which is owing to their great poverty alone.— and I have been at my own expence in all my travels up and down the Country for the Indians, as for this Design. but now Gentlemen My Money is spent, that great friend of mine has at last failed me. and for me to borrow money, Methinks is not proper. for I know not when I shall be able to pay. so Methinks, I am obliged to cast my Self upon the Charity of all well disposed Persons. So Gentlemen, since I have

spent my all, I hope for the future good of poor Indians. May it please you to pity & help me in this time of Difficulty. and out of your Abundance contribute a little for my present help, & future Encouragement. I purpose to go through Seven town of Indians soon as Possible. then I shall return to the Mohawk Country, all this Journey I must accomplish before next May. and without help from Some good men. I must Suc[]

[verso:

and I know not or I shall have any help from the Publick untill May next.—
Gentlemen if it is but little that ye be pleased to bestow it will be received with great Joy. and I do promise in the Sincerity of my heart that whatever ye be pleased to bestow shall be used with prudence and Discretion.—
and Gentlemen, if this Petition finds favour in your hearts, and ye feel pity in your hearts towards me, and Afford me little help, to bear my Expenses on my way. I shall leave this place this afternoon, and make the best of my way thro the Country. but to conclude may the Lord open the hearts of all such as are able to contribute for my present ~~Need~~ help and future Encouragement.—
Yea may the Lord give me favour in the Eyes of all generous, free hearted, And Publick spirited Gentlemen of this Noble Seat, of polite Learning. to whom I make my humble request known. I am the Publicks, and your Well wisher, and humble Petitioner Joseph Johnson. an Indian of the Mohegan Tribe.

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