

Proposals of Peace delivered by us to the Half-breeds, 25th June, 1815

Peace

In the year of our Lord 1815 this 25th day June & His Majesty's Reign the Fifty Sixth.

1st. It is hereby promised that peace and amity shall hereafter ever exist between the people of this settlement and the Half-breeds & that all that has been done on both sides shall be forgiven.

2nd. It is furthermore agreed that the Half-breeds shall ever enjoy the full liberty of running the Buffalo and living according to the custom in which they have been brought up.

3rd. And it is also agreed that they shall not be subject to any Local Laws that may be hereafter established unless they finding the good effects of living a civilized life shall come forward and ask to be admitted into our society, then they shall be considered as one of us and shall enjoy all the Privileges we may possess.

4th. And it is further promised that whatever presents may be given annually to the Indians, that the Half-breeds shall have an equal share in them.

Red River Settlement, 25th June, 1815

Cuthbert Grant rejected the agreement and countered with the following:

1. All settlers to retire immediately from this river, and no appearance of a colony to remain;

2. Peace and amity to subsist between all parties, traders, indians and freemen, in future, throughout these two rivers, and on no account any person to be molested in his lawful pursuits;

3. The honorable HBC will, as customary, enter this river with, if they think proper, three or four of their former trading boats, and with four or five men per boat as usual;

4. Whatever former disturbance has taken place between both parties, that is to say, the honorable HBC and the Half-breeds of the Indian territory, to be totally forgot and not to be recalled by either party;

5. Every person passing the summer for the HBC, shall remain in the buildings of the company but shall retire to some other spot, where they will establish for the purpose of trade.

Cuthbert Grant,
Bostonais Pangman,

WM. Shaw,
Bonhomme Montour
The four chiefs of the half-breeds,
James Sutherland,
James White

Red River Indian Territory, Forks, Red River, 25 June, 1815

*Source: Margaret MacLeod and W. L. Morton, Cuthbert Grant of Grantown:
Warden of the Plains of Red River (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Ltd., 1974)
at 29 -30*