

Washington Penn^a June 10th 1802

Sir

about three weeks ago I received a letter from a gentleman, residing amongst the Indians, concerned in the missionary business of the United Brethren of Bethlehem. — In this letter he states as follows — viz. "One Act however, if true, may operate in the decree of heaven, much against him in the long run. viz. that he should have told the Indian Chiefs who lately visited him: that they stood in the need of being taught in Christianity — that they were a separate people and nation from the whites and their mode of living (without the Religion of the whites) was perfectly right, and conformable to the intention of their Creator, who had given them a different skin — different ideas, and a different way of maintaining themselves and for that reason had placed them on a separate Island by themselves — this is reported here by Capt. George Whitely, one of the Chiefs who says he had it from the mouth of those it was spoken to by Mr. Jefferson thro' a french Interpreter at a private conference however please mention not my name in relating the story." —

In my answer to this letter I just mentioned my disbelief of the truth of the story, that I supposed it was no doubt propagated by political enemies to injure you; and though little about it for some days till I heard by accident of a letter from some person of the same purport having been read in a Presbytery in Kentucky, on which I began to fear that the story if uncontradicted might have mischievous effects. — The story after a continued currency might gain credit enough to be used by such of the Indians as may be most averse to civilization as a powerful means of defeating the Missionaries and at the same time be used by enemies amongst the plain Presbyterians and Moravians to banish confidence in the Chief Magistrate. — Under this impression I consulted some of my most judicious friends on the subject amongst whom Messrs. Edgema and M^r Dowell especially advised that by every means you ought to be informed speedily that you might do with it as you might think it deserved. — you will observe I am not at liberty to name the gentleman who writes me. I may however assure you that at a time not long past he gave evidence of his high regard for your character when attacked by Mr. Martin's Jun^r in a letter with due respect your Obedt^o

President of the United States

David Redick

Redick Davis. Washⁿ. Pensive June 10. 1802.

recd. June 17.

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