

## NOTE ON THE TEXT

In an effort to maintain the integrity of the original in this transcription, I've tried to retain spelling and punctuation as they occur. The several misspellings or variations on words known today are left as they appear in the original. There are also several places where punctuation is unclear, in which there appears to be a stray speck of ink from the pen or a hasty mark of punctuation that could be construed as a comma or period. In those cases when the punctuation appeared to be intentional but illegible, I have included the punctuation mark I found most closely resembled the original but did not distort comprehension of the sentence itself. Where there didn't appear to be an intentional mark made—due to context and/or placement of the mark itself—I omitted the occasion from the transcription.

Any non-grammatical elements like underlining or capitalization are left as they appear in the original. The use of the latter most often occurs when mentioning people, but the references are not proper names. Where this convention does not seem to be followed, yet capitalization occurs, I've detailed the discrepancy in a footnote.

Finally, I have separated the pages where the original letter breaks, to further maintain an accurate presentation of the document as a whole (and for quick cross-reference to the electronic images of the pages to be included with this text at a later date).

Chippewa Agency

April 2<sup>#\*</sup>, 1856

Dr. Cousin,<sup>1</sup>

*This is to advise you (if you are not in the world to come) that I am still on Earth; I have began to believe that you think me dead, and you have stoped writing to me; but perhaps you had the same shadow of an excuse for not writing, that I have, which is the want of something to write about; poor excuse; such things must not be; we ought by all means inform one another once in a while how we are getting a long and if such information only takes up three lines on a sheet of paper; it is always a letter, and certainly gives one more satisfactio[n]<sup>2</sup> than no letter at all.*

*It is so long since I have heard of you, that I have not the least idea~~s~~<sup>3</sup> what you are doing or how you are getting along, and perhaps you are in the same fix; in regards to my affairs. Well, I am still Interpreter, and that is all; but do not intend to remain so much longer, as I have just received my money which was allotted to me at Washington last Spring (\$3000.) I am looking about for a place; one that will suit me for a Farm, and when I have found one I shall just settle down and make farming my business.*

*In regard to Traders<sup>4</sup> Claims against the Mississippi and Pillager Indians, they have all been allowed and paid over [page break]*

---

\* Use of # sign in original; probably indicates 'nd' superscript for the date.

<sup>1</sup> Abbreviation for Dear, not a title; Cousin is George Parsons Warren (1823-1884), see Appendix: Family Tree.

<sup>2</sup> End of word was written off of the paper; this approximates the intended word based on context of the sentence.

<sup>3</sup> The 's' here was struck out in the original.

<sup>4</sup> Unsure of the intended meaning, so I left it as it appears in the original; could be a plural adjective (Traders Claims), or a plural possessive reference (Traders' Claims); ambiguity due to capitalization as well.

[page break] as they were made at Washington<sup>5</sup> in time of the Treaty<sup>6</sup>, and by this affair I have made \$1000, out of the principle Traders concerned. The way it turned out was this. Mr Whiting, Chief Clerk of the Sec<sup>7</sup> of Interior was sent here as a special Agent to examine the claims in open Council of all the Chiefs, at the same time that old Mannypenny<sup>8</sup> was at Lapointe<sup>9</sup>. Well Mr Whiting was here a great while before the Indians collected and the longer he staid the more alarmed the Traders got about their claims and they got so badly scared that they were like drowning men. „They would catch at a straw,“<sup>10</sup> and they did. They knew that I was with Whiting most all the time, and all the information he got from the Indians had to pass through me. They got an idea that I could help their cause a great deal, so Beaulieu<sup>11</sup> drew up a note of \$1000—<sup>12</sup> and got the principle claimants to sign it and gave it to me; Every thing<sup>13</sup> has gone off better than they expected, and they are all freely willing to pay me what they agreed. Although I had nothing to do in helping them; to my knowledge, only that I expressed my opinion to Mr Whiting on some points when he required it but I do not know if it had any weight or not.

I have not heard anything about the Lake<sup>14</sup> claims;<sup>15</sup> I think that Old Mannypenny has knocked them end ways. I will now close this epistle by adding my respects and love to all Friends and Relatives, and requesting you to write to me as soon as convenient, and hoping that you will make it convenient soon. I have not seen the Females for nearly six weeks, and do not know how they are, but I presume they are all well, at least I hope so.

*From You Affectionate Cousin*

*T. A. Warren*

---

<sup>5</sup> Original appears as ‘Was<sup>h</sup>ington’ with a subscript caret and the ‘h’ inserted into the existing word.

<sup>6</sup> Reference to the 1855 treaty with the Chippewa

<sup>7</sup> Abbreviation as written in original

<sup>8</sup> Extra ‘n’ was stricken in original; name is misspelled again later without authorial or editorial correction.

<sup>9</sup> [Sic], unless the convention at that time was to spell La Pointe as one word; however, I found no indication that this was the case; Hill spells it as two words in The Office of Indian Affairs, 1824-1880: Historical Sketches.

<sup>10</sup> The original has what appears to be subscript quotation marks set around this phrase as shown here. There also seems to be a comma set directly above the second quotes, which I attempted to show with a superscripted comma.

<sup>11</sup> It is not clear which of the Beaulieu brothers is referenced here; Clement Beaulieu was an agent for the American Fur Company and his brother, Paul, worked for him. Both were interpreters on the 1855 Treaty as well.

<sup>12</sup> Indecipherable mark here after the dollar amount; I approximated it with the dash.

<sup>13</sup> ‘Every thing’ is potentially a misused capitalization, but was probably not a single word as we use today.

<sup>14</sup> Lake Winnebigoishish

<sup>15</sup> The word ‘claims’ runs to the edge of the paper; it is likely the end of a complete clause, so I’ve included the semicolon due to the author’s penchant for this punctuation and to help with comprehension.