

Province of the  
Mafsachusetts Bay fs

To His Excellency William Shirley Esq.<sup>r</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup>  
General & Governour in Chief & the Honb.<sup>le</sup> His Majest<sup>ies</sup> Council  
To the Honourable Houfe of Repre=  
-sentatives of the said Province In  
Gen:<sup>ll</sup> Court afsembled this twenty fourth  
day of December A.D. 1741

The Anfwer of John Quincy Trustee for the  
Indians of Punkapogg within the Town of Stoughton to  
the Petition of Amos Ahauton Tho:<sup>s</sup> Ahauton Hezekiah Squaw  
=mugg and Simon George Sheweth

That Your Respond.<sup>t</sup> is well Afured That the Indians  
even some who are called Pet:<sup>rs</sup> are Unacquainted with this  
Petition: One of them a principal Man who has been a  
preacher among them; Namely Amos Ahaution haveing  
lately told Y<sup>r</sup> Respond:<sup>t</sup> that he never heard the Pet:<sup>o</sup> read,  
nor Set his hand to it. ~ that he has not Set his hand to it  
Appears Upon the Original Pet:<sup>o</sup> where his Name is Under=  
=written at Length without his Mark<sup>^</sup>, which he always makes. ~ Another said to be  
a Petitioner viz Simon George has been dead about two years,  
And from hence it may well be Suspected, That the rest of the  
Pet.<sup>rs</sup> Names & marks were put to the Pet:<sup>o</sup> by other People  
without their knowledge or Confent. ~ Whether this be not  
an Imposition not only on the Indians; but upon this Great  
& Hon:<sup>ble</sup> Court your Hon:<sup>rs</sup> in your wisdom will determine

The truth of the matter is; The prefent Petition  
is a Transcript of A Petition drawn five years agoe, by a  
perfon belonging to Stoughton of No Good Character, &  
one whofe Bond I had Some time before put in Suit ( after  
waiting many years Upon him) in order to recover the Interest due  
upon it by which means I obtained it as well as the principall Mony  
which I then put into better hands. ~ By this perfon the  
Indians were Artfully & wickedly practifed with to get their hands  
to that Petition as they then Informed your Respon:<sup>dt</sup> Which Pet:<sup>o</sup>  
was left in the hands of Coll:<sup>o</sup> Spur of Dorchester from whence  
your Respond<sup>t</sup> had a Copy which is now by me and Compareing  
it with this Pet:<sup>o</sup> find it differs <sup>^</sup> in nothing material. – That Pet:<sup>o</sup>  
was not forwarded to Court at that time, becaufe your Respond:<sup>t</sup>  
(as he Suppofes) was a Member of it, As he has been ever Since  
till this year And So (‘tis very probable) is <sup>^</sup> now thought not to be  
Under the like Advantages as when a Member to lay open  
the wicked designs and Corrupt practifes of those who have been  
Active in this Affair. ~

But granting this to be truly the Petition of y<sup>e</sup> Indians  
Your Respond.<sup>t</sup> takes notice; That they Move in the first place  
That there may be a Reformation Among them, and that they  
all may be made to Attend the Publick worfhip on the Lords day.

This your Respond.<sup>t</sup> prefumes is not in the power of any Trustee to Effect nor is it mentioned (as he conceives) by way of Complain against him. However as to that he begs leave to Say; That he has done all that he has been able to do towards this, Unless it had been in his power to make them good Christians.~

Some years agoe when Amos the Indian Minister was about to build a Houfe your Respond.<sup>t</sup> was desired to employ Some Workman and provide materials as Boards and nails for the building a larger Houfe then was necessary for Amos & Family  
And

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and your Respond.<sup>t</sup> can truly Say That he has ever been carefull lest that he Shoud overcharge any thing they have had of him always remembering That it was a Trust reposed in him to which he was under the strongest obligations to be faithfull; And that thro the Indig[ *obscured* ] and Importunity of the Indians he has let them 358 have his Corn So as that he has been obliged to buy for his own Family, and given several Shillings more in a Bushel then he had Charged them ~

Your Respond.<sup>t</sup> was resolute from the beginning not to Sell any Drink to the Indians, to Avoid many inconveniences which he foresaw, tho they have always had what was Convenient of Beer and Cyder when they Came to his Houfe (which having <sup>been</sup> often) without being Charged any thing therefor which, in fifteen years time every Body must think will come to Something considerable

Moreover the Indians have a fondness for living Some time near the Salt water in the Season of fishing & your Respond.<sup>t</sup>s Land adjoining thereto and being Convenient for that purpose, Some of them have Continued for weeks together; when they have burnt up his wood and Sometimes not spared even his fenceing Stuff which so near the waterside is valuable, for which there never was the least Consideration made.~

Your Respond.<sup>t</sup> would not have troubled Y<sup>r</sup> Hon:<sup>rs</sup> with a Report of Some of these things but that it Seems necessary to Shew that he has been a Benefactor to these Indians instead of an Oppressor of them.~ As to their being provided with Cloathing for themselves and Wives Against winter; they are now as well Cloathed as usual; the Old Indians and their Wives having had this fall, Each of them a good Blanket.~

It is further said that they are able to do little or nothing for a Livelyhood

This Suggestion is so far from Truth, That (as I have been lately Informed by Several Principal Men of Stoughton) by what the <sup>Indians</sup> do they earn much more in a year then their Annual income and much more might they earn were they diligent, but Some of the English People get all for Strong drink, and more Especially one who is Engaged in bringing forward this Petition purchases of their Brooms and Baskets in one year to the value of Fifty pounds if not more, and pays for 'em in little else besides Strong drink by which

they are often intoxicated and it is a Common thing to See them lying about his Houfe drunk~ Some Effectual methods Indeed are needful to be taken in order to prevent Such notorious Abuse & Otherwise there can be no hopes of the Reformation propofed. And it is Some= what wonderful that the man who is chiefly the occafion of thefe Disorders Shoud Confent to the mentioning any Such thing as a Re= formation in the Petition; But from hence it may well be Concluded that the Reformation infifted on is only a pretence

What the perfons who have Stirred so much in this affair have in [ *torn* ] with your Respond.<sup>t</sup> is eafily determined, It Seems that aim at having not only the Managem.<sup>t</sup> of the Indians and their affairs in their hands but alfo the Remaind:<sup>r</sup> of their Land on which is a good growth of wood & Timber which your Refpond.<sup>t</sup> has been Instrumental of preferving hither to in a great<sup>^</sup> measure And on which their Eyes have been for Several years, but that he Stands in their way, having prevented their purchafing it in the manner popofed<sup>^</sup> in a Petition of Some of them for that End years agoe~

As to the Appointment of another Trustee in my Room your Refpd:<sup>t</sup> is under no manner of Concern who takes the Trouble for the Reward, which indeed had been greater had he not in Compafion to the Indians Objected Against it

When it was moved Several times in the Hon:<sup>ble</sup> Houfe paffing my acc:ts<sup>^</sup> that the allowance to me Shoud be Enlarged y<sup>r</sup>: Refpond.<sup>t</sup> Said (as he believes diverfe Gentlemen now members can Remember) that Although what had been allowed was far fhort of a full Recompence for the Trouble he had in manageing the Indian Affairs yet their annual Income was So Small, it woud not well Admit of a greater allow= ance; That he Knew he Served thofe who were unable to Serve themfelves, and upon that Score was willing to Accept of what had been ufually allowed. But if ~~the~~ Gentlemen of Truth & Fidelity are liable in this manner to be Traduced without the leaft foundation, And their Reputation hazarded by the Artifices of malicious ill defigning Men protected as they think by their Secresys thofe who are best Qualified for fuch a Trust will hardly be persuaded to accept it. Y<sup>r</sup> Refpond.<sup>t</sup> Therefore hopes for the Justice of this Hon:<sup>ble</sup> Houfe in his defence; And makes no Doubt of this Petition being difmifsed with fuch Animadverfions upon it as it juftly Deferves.~ And your Respond.<sup>t</sup> as in Duty bound Shall ever pray &c

John Quincy

[verso:

John Quincy Esqr  
Anfwer  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 1741

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