

Lettre des Abénaquis au roi de France pour obtenir son appui alors que les Anglais cherchent à s'emparer de leurs terres, vers 1715. C11A-1 fol. 266-267v. [Translation into English is from the accompanying French text]

Nekintsesem, nemittang8i,
[My king, my Father,]

Anraoui nenoudanërsi pitta kene kouittannkouimeren, ni éreghiran nia édtsi keneskighia.

[I feel incapable of saying to you a single word, as small as I am, how dare I speak to someone with a majesty as grand as yours.]

Kekesaan8ouangan anzokké areghixkouñ édoudeghiran, nia stai nhaghex dari n8uëouãmadamen: ni erihikkekadaoui gher8ureren.

[What reassures me, is that your kindness, which I have for a longtime often felt, is equal to your majesty. This is why I have taken the liberty to speak with you.]

arighéoui ga 8urerda koudamimeren nekoutanηkouat, tai anahérda érinanbarimera tañni pipisouakkamighinnouia.

[Permit me therefore, without taking into consideration my embarrassment for interrupting your important work, to say a few words. Forgive me, if I speak ill, for I live in the forest and share not your refined manners.]

Tannaighé éto o8réouësanñi ketemañghérmidé kerfi-niouéskou, érérmudé Présmanar ouã ouëouërmanñs, kakkékkimiths méan8ursanñdak éghma spemki éranöudzerrek.

[God granted me much grace when he gave me French knowledge, instructing and teaching me the true path to heaven where he lives.]

Ourahami nektemañghérmegou kia maanöuöi éri mireskesa kededouts ketemañghèrghe8uñ-téhéstaouin, kederi8uñtzokkémín 8érsi ni aritoa.

[But this made me much better when he inspired in your majesty these sentiments of great compassion for me, that he seems well disposed to facilitate the enjoyment of this happiness in so many ways.]

Kekéssi - pèrfidakkéouin kandak ési nékontsigateghi, késsi annkaouiouï ési ketemañghérmihidit io dari nourfitebérdamaouëouskik, tépitéhanñdama, nouëouësanmi-anñfaaghérdamitéhanñsi, nedaharitéhanñsi: naia! kéhérariminanñgou nountzannouërmegoussa na éreghik: koukkamigher tanni bééméghirek kiñ tsemis! éramisia na8uã tanni pêra baïn, manña n8uëmenemououn nouïttamen.

[When I reflect on what you send me each year, and the help that your officers provide to me in your name, I am shocked and think to myself: "Thank God! Is it true that the greatest of kings sees me as his child!" It is impossible to express the pleasure that I feel.]

Englismann ïaondiëghelan tanni ésto sipioui 8ussi, pérekoudabatanni pars8urit naighé oussi, nanouat ba éroué nouék: kouäharegoussa taikka, kiaba man8a8uitzokkemiokasaané, ouïkkouniou8asaané.

[For almost as long as I can remember, I have been at war with the English. How many times have they defeated me? Without your majesty's help and protection, we would have almost certainly been destroyed.]

nedakkiar kandak kisi ouïkkouneghesaa: nir tanni ésto tégagheghikkouk, ahapi: anndan kisi érouë dari nék8kattéhi: meghé; é8kkan8si pourouanneban iopéssiphou8a na oursioussi, nikkouan8i mina aouïkkounemen kia ga, agou8a, ke: kadaoui tsighittaouann, éghmaga Englisman ni érrit.

[What extent of my Lands has he not already seized after almost entirely destroying me there, and now he wants to become master of what remains, where the small number of us who escaped his fury have remained. According to the English, you have let him do this.]

Disouïouïkk' ésto neditregou8 keda8uïparsourir areni, tégou8agouïouï ouèrkouï: an8ban kédaoui nirrandérdaman8sir ni kederan8dokkan8taman8gou8.

[I sincerely hope what he says is not true, and that he wants to deceive me. His goal is to become master of all the Land, but he places all of this on you.]

Kéheraba naou8a sipiouï kisérmir é8ukkan8si outkiouïa kisérdaghé nemittangous ! manda ni nekan8kisi [t] arérdamouou8 man8a est'ioarèroui pézekounouïo pegou8a nedakki tai ni néttangousa Englismann téouan8mskak ? tzébian8 gak8e ni pista ; arsik8ba ni kisér:damoudé englismann édari-ntan88sa prés:man8ni-8u8akkanrouzen, manda io xisérdamaouan8ou8 epia, nikki na8u8a éri parsourit ousi8: nemiregou8 io Présman8ni-ki8osémis matsena ga iri 8utenemaouïdeban nedakki, nspiouï stai émittangousou' érmeran8ban neré8u8an8ganek 8utsi 8uska8uïouï outsipta ouidé kadaoui.

[What could one do if my father sacrificed me to the English by abandoning [t] the little bit of Land that remained for me? No, this will not enter into my thinking. Absolutely not. It cannot. Is my Land not different than the land around Port Royal, captured by the English? It is completely different. They have gained all the land around the fort that they captured, but not the country in which I live. And here is the fraud that he has perpetrated. He wants me to understand that it is my Land, the same as the king of France, has given, and, as I am unhappy to be removed from my Land, he also wants to destroy the attachment I have to you as a true father]

Nia naoua kakiouppan8mit khaghé nenai: goui phou8andemen8 érémèran8né, aharinénaouérmideban nénaouërmidéba nemittan8gous, ouétki 8ussi an8ban séghé 8usouan8damaouidé; 8uittamaouan8dé méneniptaouïritsir érédamaouïr ni, ara kinangoui kédzaonihouthsir, pisou: ankoukimsit ighéou8aman8dé.

[The pain and trouble that this discourse has caused obliges me to return to you. I would be happy, I tell myself, if my father would take the same care of me, as he has up until the present time, by protecting my Land, declaring these sentiments to those

who unjustly want to remove me from my Land and, at the very least, to bear witness that he never claimed what they say he did.]

niba ne8ighéhougouñ nemittangous, méoüi: aba nesankaouérdam tai ni édari a8uäkkandañousessia métsetsarz ba nenekoutougnan: ousessin kounioussiba nesankaouï-néssann anppaio tanñi 8uënemérdama, ouëdouäga pitta, n8uäñouäñghenaouï-panbattamen ni érénera: ni éri ouïouïnouïppanšoutoura.

[It is in this way that my father can make my life much more tranquil, though I expect there to be more miserable moments in the life that I lead. I breathe, I say, at least during this short time. But what benefit will there be for my religion, which lies at my heart and my principal motive for hearing your words. This is what I take the liberty to tell you. Here is what has motivated me to share my complaints and supplications.]

Kamanñsi ga kikéssigategheban [outs] séaghimigakka, késsouna iri ouit [z]okkédamaougheban nemittangous amatanbegoum, anðakouïna noutsiréhansi.

[Although in recent years I took part and I have lost a considerable number of my people.]

tébarni panbastamouanñan éri ouitzokké dama nousinann, rébatni 8itsi panbatta: mémouk nouïtspnémanñ

[in all of the actions in which I have taken up my good father's cause, I can say that this has rarely been a subject of sorrow.]

manðahaba kandak nouritéhanšippesa quebec nanšekaghi Englismann, anða darinéokanisaané nètoumeghé édoutsi ouïa: gourranñban naighé quebec [pétti] apirsi-migak: kanñe, M^r de vaudreil tai kers it san: gmanñ nekis anðokkanreg8ñ.

[I consider myself happy to die in support of the religion, in my country, and not to have any other religion than that of the French, which I embrace. I can say with truth, that I will not be content, as I run the same risks with Quebec if it is captured by the English. This is why I hastily come with joy to help the town, not only over these past years, but also, as M. Vaudreuil and the officers will verify, for the last twenty-three years.]

Nikk8uänbi naouä ouärrha kis'angoudimek ni édoutsi séghesia, ni édoutsi sésemepañia; érrit oua Englismann noudamaour.

[What is surprising is that now with the peace, hearing the language used by the English, has created fear and concern.]

Sipioui nedaoukkanðandañousessouanñan, Sipioui nepanbatta mokañgan nanégousan: badame, Sipioui ouërenmé maoumesia, sipioui péranbérmesia.

[I have begun to fear for my life, for my religion which I no longer believe is assured. I have begun to recognize my misery and I have begun to lose hope.]

Kia ga, kia auïbioui, nemittangoui, pé: gouattaouaη ba nedèkkoui-maouimesin, tai naighé migakkanné éri 8uïauës Sesian: ηban nikkouanbi nedaremisouanādamen nedarikkik dari n8ouanöüanghenaoui aïn, nesankaoni-panbattam.

[There is only you, my father, who can console me, reassure me, and bring about happiness. Therefore, I [assure myself] in the dangers of war, knowing how to live and pray quietly in my country.]

méouïakḵba kedaouénoutsemak darinamihoughé nesipoumikkouk ahadari ouākanrōnsitsik, ahadari onighesitsik nedaharéradamba, nega ari oua kikima: houèrmidé englismann, nega ari skouï: anādamaouïdé tanniba sipioui késsessia mērsersara nesésemakkamighenemaṅgouη nega ari dakki tébat ni pēssoutkaouït onā nirsi-panbattamém8uk, ni éri maoui: tsitounit nanēkouitsi-merreghirouërmouk nemittangous ni éranηkouimera tepitéhaniméga, ketemangh sedaouë [kerritzann].

[I have only joy to see the French establish and fortify themselves on my rivers. I am hardly concerned that the English continue to hold a secret hatred for me, nor that they continue to look for a moment to take both my life and my Land. I am content to have someone beside me with whom I am tightly united by religion and who likewise supports me from afar with the strong hand of someone that I regard as the grandest prince on earth and, who for me, takes the place of father. Here are my words, deign to pay attention and listen with kindness to him who remains infinitely honoured by your protection.]

anbanakkér

[the Abenaki.]