

March 5, 1858.

[No. III.] A MEMORIAL to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, praying for a grant of land to settlers on the land ceded by the Treaty of Pembina.

Preamble.

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States: The memorial of the legislative assembly of the territory of Minnesota respectfully represents, That by the treaty of Pembina, concluded on the twentieth of September last, by and between the United States commissioner, Alexander Ramsey, and the Chippewa Indians, a tract of land eighty miles in length and sixty miles in breadth, lying nearly in equal portions on each side of the Red river of the North, was ceded to the United States on terms of a favorable nature, for the future advancement of settlements and civilization in this distant portion of the territory, and for the immediate amelioration of the condition of the bands of Indians, who will be entitled to participate in the annuities, and other advantages to be derived from the stipulations of said treaty. On this tract, at the time of its cession, there were three hundred families of industrious people, who cultivate the soil. The greater number of them are of mixed Indian and white blood, connected for the most part with the Chippewas, who are parties to the treaty of Pembina.— They are not only civilized and christianized, but entertain a high regard for the comforts and inestimable advantages which an advanced stage of improvement in the industrial arts induces. They have long been desirous of having the way effectually opened to them for the full development of their energies and the advancement of their prosperity.

Prayer, &c.

They have been in possession, and previous to the late treaty, claimed an inherent right to the country which they occupied. This right their Indian relatives have never been disposed to dispute; but on the contrary, have always evinced an anxious desire that their half-blood relatives should share in all the benefits that might arise either by actual possession and the right to till the soil without hindrance, or in its disposal by cession to the United States. But the policy of the government precluding any direct participation on the part of the half-bloods, who are considered as citizens of the United States, these hardy and adventurous pioneers may be deprived of the hopes that they have cherished for years, and the fruits of unremitting industry and the most arduous toil.

Prayer, &c.

Exposed as they are, not only to the rigors of a northern climate, where, although the soil is fertile and fruitful, they are still necessitated to undergo many hardships which none but a race of their strong physical constitutions could endure, and are sometimes barely able to provide a scanty subsistence, with much toil and the endurance of many fatigues and privations. In the event of the ratification of the treaty of Pembina, the lands upon which they now live, and have lived upon as their own by the strongest of all human rights, long years of occupancy, and the ties of kindred that bind them to the original possessor of the soil, may pass from their possession; or they may have to encounter many new and untried difficulties to retain them. They will not possess the means of purchasing the lands, which they desire, as their future homes, and a number of years may elapse, before any great or beneficial change can take place in the condition of this distant people, unless a justly entitled boon is granted to them by a liberal government, and further encouragement is held out to those, who may desire, to join

in the development of the resources of this new and remote region. The liberal grants of lands made to settlers in Oregon, as well as the just claims of the Pembina settlers, induced your memorialists to hope that the same wise and generous policy will be extended to the frontier settlements of this territory. They fully, as much as those settling in Oregon, need the fostering care of a paternal and liberal government.

Impressed with these various reasons, and anxious for the speedy advance of settlements in this territory, your memorialists earnestly but most respectfully solicit your honorable bodies to pass an act during your present session, whereby all those who are heads of families that were living on the land ceded by the treaty of Pembina, at the date of said treaty; and all persons of the age of twenty-one years, (Indians excepted) who may become bona fide settlers one year after the ratification of said treaty of Pembina, will be entitled to a quarter section of land, to hold the same in fee simple, as a donation from the United States government.

All of which is duly and respectfully submitted.

J. D. LUDDEN,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

WM. HENRY FORBES,

*President of the Council.*

APPROVED—March fifth, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two.

ALEX. RAMSEY.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

St Paul, July 7th, 1852. }

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original on file in this office.

ALEX. WILKIN,

*Secretary of the Territory of Minnesota.*

[No. IV.] MEMORIAL of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota, to the President of the United States, concerning suits for trespass on the pine lands.

Feb. 14, 1852.

*To the President of the United States:* The memorial of the Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Minnesota respectfully represents, That in 1837, the Indian title was extinguished to a large tract of country, embracing within its limits all the ceded lands in the territory east of and on the Mississippi river and its tributaries; that said land was purchased of the Indians during the existence of a law of Congress granting pre-emption rights to the public lands previous to their survey by the government, and was purchased for the avowed purpose of opening to the settlements on the Mississippi, the extensive pine regions of the St. Croix, the Rum river and other tributaries of that magnificent river. That in consequence of the inducements offered by government in 1838, a large amount of capital was invested on the St. Croix and elsewhere, under the implicit obligation on the part of government, that the lands would be surveyed and brought into market at an early day, and of thus securing to the occupants of the public lands, an opportunity of becoming the purchasers of their selections and improvements. That in 1840, a further inducement to the settlement of these lands within the territory, was offered by government, an extension of two

Preamble.