

John Pickering an Wilhelm von Humboldt, 11.04.1834

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|63r| Sir,

On the 15.th of October last I did myself the pleasure of addressing a letter to you accompanied with the following books, viz: <1.> [Father Rāle's Dictionary of the Abnaki Language](#), lately printed, under my direction, by our [Boston Academy of Arts and Sciences](#) – 2. A copy of [Cotton's Vocabulary of the ancient Massachusetts Dialect](#) – 3. [The Gospel of S.^l Luke, in the Seneka Language](#) – 4. [The Gospels of Matthew, Mark & John, in the language of Owhyhee](#), now written by our Missionaries, [Hawaii](#). I hope all these have reached you in safety.

I have now the pleasure to send you two other works relating to the aboriginals of North America – 1. [Remarks made on a Tour to Prairie du Chien &.^c](#) by [Caleb Atwater](#), a Commissioner of the United States to negotiate with the Indians of the Upper Mississippi &.^c This work is valuable only for the specimen of the Dakota or Sioux language (at [p. 149](#)) which was furnished to the author by [M.^r John Marsh](#), with whom I am personally acquainted. The rest of the book, especially the attempt at philological learning (see [p. 75 et seqq.](#)) is quite superficial, and only betrays the writer's ignorance of well known facts and of philological science.

2. The other work is a great curiosity: the [|63v|life of a celebrated Indian Chief, now living, who is called in English, Black Hawk](#) – with his reflections upon the people of the United States and their manners & customs &.^c; all dictated by himself to his interpreter. It has a Dedication in his native language, which is of the Lenapé stock. The portrait of the Chief is said to be a tolerable likeness.

If these little works shall possess any value in your collection, it will give me much pleasure.

It is a very long time since I had the pleasure of hearing from you. I hope your health continues good, and that you will soon favour the public with your great work on the American Languages.

I am, Sir,

with the highest respect
your obedient servant

Jn^oPickering

Boston, United States

April 11th, 1834.

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