

MCARTHUR TO ARMSTRONG

Detroit Octr 6th 1813

Sir,

You have no doubt been advised by the commanding Genl, that Malden and this place were abandoned by the enemy previous to the arrival of our army, and that all the public buildings &c, were destroyed. On our arrival at sandwich, my Brigade was ordered across the river to disperse some Indians, who were piliging the Town and to take possession of this place. Information was received that several thousand Indians had retired a small distance into the woods with instructions to attack Genl Harrison's army, on its passage for the purpose of retarding its progress. Consequently my Brigade was left to garrison this place.

Since Genl Harrison's departure five nations of Indians, to wit, the Ottaways, Chipaways, Potawatomes, Miamies and Kickapoos, who were but a few miles back, have come in for peace, and I have agreed that hostilities should cease for the present on the following conditions. "They have agreed to take hold of the same Tomohawk with us, and to strike all who are, or may be enemies to the united States, whether British, or Indians. They are to bring in a number of their women and children and leave them as hostages whilst they accompany us to war. Some of them have already brought in their women and are drawing rations. I know not whether the president will approve of the arrangement which I have made with those Indians. It is certain that I have as little respect for those wretched beings as any other person

can have, yet I was of opinion that we might save the lives of many women and Children on our frontier, and the expense of hunting down those savages over a vast wilderness, which cannot at present be useful to any human being but themselves and that by puting an end to the Indian war, it would facilitate the sale & settlement of our wild lands—And knowing that if we kept possession of the Lakes and upper Canada (which I trust will never be relinquished) there never could be another Indian war. This sir, enduced the measures which I have persued towards those Indians.

I have just recd a note from Genl Harrison advising, that he had last evening overtaken Genl Proctors force—and had gained a complete victory—that all the principal officers, Genl Proctor excepted were in his possession. Which no doubt ends the war in this quarter.

I have the honor to be
your Ob Hb serv

DUNCAN McARTHUR,
Brigr Genl U.S. Ay

The Hon Secretary of War