

MR. DICKSON TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND.

(Indians.)

PRAIRIE DES CHIENS

Jany. 17th 1815.

SIR,

I had the honor of addressing you from Green Bay on the 14th November last, and it was with much difficulty that I reached this place on the 29th of that month. The Mississippi being blocked up with ice, prevented me descending that River as I had proposed—I found Deputies here from the different nations & I have distributed the Indian Presents confided to me, in every direction, in the best possible manner. I am sorry to say that the quantity is not near sufficient for the support of the nations, who have been promised to be protected and supplied by our Government in the most solemn and impressive manner—I have at all times repeated to them, the obstructions that were in the way from the enemy, and the different operations of the war, they have until this time believed me but I am afraid their patience is almost exhausted—Our stock of ammunition is almost expended but I anxiously look for a supply from Michilimackinac. I was but ill provided with gun Powder, and unfortunately a quantity was found damaged in the first boats sent out, a most serious loss at this time.

We have received information from various sources that the enemy had been making great exertions to invite the nations on the Missouri to join him in the spring in order to destroy those our allies on the Mississippi. Deputies from the Missouri were awaiting my arrival, but had gone off at a late season, I should have assisted these People was it in my power, but I was absolutely without the means of doing so.

Should the operations of the war allow an Expedition to go & attack St. Louis, it would be attended with the best consequences—it would annoy and distress the enemy, it would place this country in a state of security, and it would impress the Indians with the highest ideas of the energy & courage of British Soldiers—Five hundred regular Troops accompanied by two thousand good Indian warriors would fully effect the business.

A mutiny of an atrocious nature broke out in Fort McKay on the 31st ult. but was instantly quelled by Capt. Bulger, who acted with much resolution & I was happy to be at hand with the officer of the Dept. to give speedy assistance.

An Indian having lately killed two Canadians when they lay asleep I sent a Party to apprehend him, or to bring in the Chief of the Band—The Indian who committed the murder had escap'd, but the Chief was seized & confin'd, some time after the villian was brought in and delivered up to me to be put to death, he was tried by a court martial & sentenced to be shot which was immediately put in execution in the presence of the Troops Militia & Indians. I think this measure will be attended with the best effect—These Indians were attached to the Americans and they have since delivered up their Flags & Medals that they received from the enemy.

I think Sir that you are aware of the necessity of having regular Troops in this Garrison after what you will hear from Lt. Col. Mc Donall. I trust that he will send in early supplies—We are not in want of any single article in particular, but are really destitute of everything.

I have
the honor to be with the
highest respect

Sir

Your most obedient and
most humble Servant

R. DICKSON
Asst. Supt. Western Nations

Lieut General Drummond
Commanding the
Army Upper Canada.
[C 258, p 9.]