

HULL TO EUSTIS

Head Quarters of the North-Western Army

Sir, Sandwich July 21. 1812.

When I marched from Urbanna, I proposed a general council of Indians at Brownstown, to be held the be-

ginning of this month. I have held frequent councils with the Chiefs, and my proposition to them was "neutrality". I stated to the most intelligent chiefs, that we had been obliged to engage in War with Great Britain, because she would not permit us to enjoy our neutral rights; that the Indians were not at all interested in the differences between the two governments; but that the British being too weak to cope with us, were using every exertion to engage them on their side, and involve them in the calamities of war;—that we were sufficiently strong, and did not wish to disturb their tranquility by asking their assistance.

I have just received the Result of the Council of nine Nations at Brownstown, counting the "six nations," as *one*. They are unanimous for remaining neutral. The nations are the Ottawas, Chippewas, Pottawatamies, Wyandots, Delawares, Munsees, some Kikapoos, Sacs, and the "Six Nations". Tarhè, or the Crane, Mièrè, or Walk-in-the-water, Blackhoof, Col: Lewis, and the Wolf, have made great exertions to detach the Indians from the British Standard. At the close of the Council, they send Speeches to all the nations informing them of the result. I have now informed them, that they must proceed immediately to the great Council at Piqua. Tecumseh and Marpot are the only chiefs of consequence remaining with the British.

I am still detained from commencing the siege of Malden, on account of the carriages for the heavy artillery, not being prepared. Every exertion is made [ms. defaced] to accelerate their completion.

On the 18th instant being informed that several of the British, with all their Indians had passed the bridge of

the River *Aux Canards*, I detached Col: McArthur with a part of his Regiment to protect the Inhabitants. This bridge is 12 miles from my encampment. The Col: met them at a small distance from the bridge, attacked, and forced them to repass when he retired from the bridge, the enemy returned and followed him, keeping up a distant fire. The Col: formed his detachment and drove them over the bridge a second time. Two of the Colonel's men were slightly wounded, the loss of the enemy is not ascertained. Col: McArthur's conduct, on this as well as all other occasions entitles him to credit.

Augustus Porter, the Contractor, arrived here last evening. We have provisions now for about 20 days; he has four hundred barrels in boats coasting the southern shore of the Lake: it is uncertain whether it will arrive in safety. He does not consider his contract as extending to this Province. I have already authorized Piatt & Co to furnish 200,000. Rations on account of the U. S. It probably will be fifteen days, before any of this will arrive. For the supply of the Army, I must either make a contract, or appoint an agent to purchase. The Provisions can be procured in this Province, and if the troops do their duty at Niagara, the whole Province will soon fall.

[W. HULL]

The Hon: W. Eustis.

[ms. torn]