

CAPTAIN GLEGG TO COLONEL BAYNES.

(Indians.)

YORK 11th Nov. 1812.

MY DEAR SIR,

At the request of Mr. Robert Dickson the bearer of this letter who intends proceeding immediately to Montreal on his private affairs, I take the liberty of giving him an introduction to you, in order that previous to his being presented to His Excellency some interesting particulars may be made known through your obliging communication.

Mr. Dickson is closely connected with the most respectable families in this province, who have invariably shown themselves sincere & zealous friends to His Majesty's Government.

The gentleman in question has resided for a number of years in the character of a merchantile Trader in the Western Territory, and owing to his influence & assistance with the powerful Tribes of Indians some important services have been performed for the British Cause. His influential Interest with the Western Indians has been repeatedly acknowledged by this Government, and his efforts in having decided, that much injured race of Aborigines to abstain from hostilities with the United States have been well known here & duly acknowledged—During the month of Feb. 1812, existing circumstances made it highly necessary to ascertain the sentiments & intentions of the Western Indians—Promises of their continued forbearance had been constantly made thro' the Agents of the Indian Department, but it was much apprehended by my vigilante & ever to be lamented friend, that the attack made by General Harrison's Army upon the Shawanese Indians assembled under the Prophet on the Wabash on the 7th Nov. 1811 might possibly produce some spirit of retaliation—It now became an object of considerable importance to open a communication without loss of time, with the neighboring Indians bordering on the Mississippi. No doubt could be then entertained of the premeditated destruction of the Indians by the Americans, and that merely because they had *presumed* to continue to establish themselves in the peaceful occupation of their native woods & villages. The most prompt measures were immediately adopted by the head of this Government, in conformity with the repeated Instructions of His Excellency and those of his predecessor Sir James Craig, to prevent by every possible exertion the threatening flame from reaching our Frontier—Mr. Dickson's influence with the Indians being well known, the advantage of immediately opening a communication with him became obvious, and the accompanying paper No 1 was dispatched to him early in Feb. last by two

confidential Indians. Mr Dickson was then at the Portage called Ouisconsin which is about one hundred and eighty miles from the Mississippi and the same distance from La Baie, about 800 miles from Amherstburg. He was then employed in administering in his merchantile capacity, to the severe distresses of their women & children who were literally languishing for want of food & clothing, owing to our supplies having been discontinued & to the severity of the season.

Mr. Dickson received the enclosed paper No. 1 early in May and immediately replied to it No. 2. Previous to this date Mr. Dickson had observed an unusual degree of activity in the American agents who were then residing amongst the Indians & having ascertained that presents were daily distributed by these people, which by the by was a novel circumstance; he made immediate inquiry, and was informed by some of the principal Chiefs that the American agents had been directed by their Government, to invite some of their leading warriors from each nation, to pay an early visit to Washington. A combination of various circumstances left no doubt in the mind of Mr. Dickson that all this was intended as a prelude to more important events. His first endeavour was to dissuade the chiefs from listening to the invitation of the American Government & to point out the imminent danger of the alliance. Mr. Dickson fully succeeded in every object, & he received the strongest assurance of friendship and support in the cause of their Father the British Monarch, whenever circumstances should render their assistance necessary. Soon after this communication passed, intelligence reached the Wabash Indians that General Hull with an army of two thousand men was on his march to Detroit. The Shawanese and other Nations voluntarily offered to attack him on his route but were induced to desist from it by the repeated entreaties of the friends and agents of the British Government. It is however a well known fact that General Hull's movements were all closely watched by Tecumthsey's confidential scouts, who were considered and received by the American General, as friends attached to their interests. At the capture of Michillimackinac Mr. Dickson took an active part & his services on that occasion, have been honorably recorded by Captain Roberts. After the surrender of that Post, an expedition was immediately formed (at the solicitation of Major General Brock) by the gentlemen of the Northwest and Southwest Companies then assembled at Michillimackinac to cooperate with the force then contemplated to be employed against Detroit. So imperious however was the necessity for despatch, in carrying this operation into execution that the expedition under Major General Brock reached its destination and succeeded in its object before the Indians intended for assist-

ance, could form a juncture with our little army. The intelligence of their approach had however reached the Enemy & I have particular reason for knowing that this circumstance produced very considerable influence in their final negotiations.

In Justice to the memory of our lamented friend Major General Brock, & in obedience to what I am confident, would have been his intentions, I have taken the liberty of troubling you with this confidential communication, which you will be pleased to make use of, as your superior Judgment & discretion may point out. I am not aware of Mr. Dickson's immediate views in soliciting an interview with His Excellency but I have a perfect knowledge that there is no gentleman in this Province more capable than himself of giving accurate information respecting the Western Nations than himself, & I am authorized in saying, that had General Brock survived the late contest, he intended pointing out Mr. Dickson to the notice of His Majesty's Government, as a gentleman who by his zealous and faithful services had proved himself deserving of their special protection

I remain My dear Sir
with much esteem
very faithfully yours

J. B. GLEGG
Capt 49th Regt

Colonel Baynes
Adjut General