

HULL TO EUSTIS

Sir, Sandwich U. Canada July 29. 1812

Last evening two Chippewa Indians arrived at this encampment from Michillimackinae, with information that the British were in possession of that Post. They state that Mr Askin the Indian Agent at St Joseph landed with about thirty regulars, the same number of Cana-

dians and near one thousand Indians from Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Green Bay &c that they had three pieces of Cannon and had moved them or were preparing to move them to the high ground which commands the Fort: that Mr Askin proceeded towards the Fort with a Flag and was met by Lieut Hanks the commandg. officer; that they remained together sometime, and when they separated Mr Askin called to his party to advance, informed them that the Fort was theirs, and they entered it without any opposition or a gun being fired. This unfortunate event they state, took place [?] days since. This account appeared to me so improbable that I did not at first give credit to it; being however well acquainted with one of the Indians who brought the information, on a close examination he related so many particulars, that I am induced to believe it is true.

I shall immediately send an express to Fort Dearborn with Orders to evacuate that post and retreat to this place, or Fort Wayne, provided it can be effected with a greater prospect of safety than to remain. Captn Heald is a judicious officer, and I shall confide much to his discretion.

The preparations for the siege of Malden are progressing as fast as possible. Every success has hitherto attended the operations of this Army, which could have been expected. The greatest part of the Indians in this quarter appear to be neutral; and large numbers of the Canadian Militia have deserted the enemy. If the information from Michillimackac [sic] is true (which at present, I am strongly inclined to believe) there is no doubt but a large body of hostile Indians may soon be expected here from the north, and it probably will have an effect

on those residing nearer to us. The preservation of this part of the country, and the conquest of Upper Canada being objects of great importance I have written to Governor Meigs of the state of Ohio, and Governor Scott of the state of Kentucky, letters, of which the enclosed marked No. 1, and 2 are copies, requesting a reinforcement of 2,000 men.

I am preparing a fortress on the Canada bank of the River Detroit, a little below our fort at Detroit, sufficient to contain about 300 men, in which I shall place cannon in order to command the river, and maintain both banks in any event of things.

I have the fullest confidence that a force will be immediately ordered to this country sufficient to make an entire conquest of all enemies in our neighbourhood.

I have the honor to be

respectfully

Your Most obedt Servant

W HULL.

Brigr Genl.

P.S. We have flour now only for 2 weeks, the principal supply must come from Ohio, the road must be guarded to enable the contractor to bring on the supplies.

The Honbl: W. Eustis

Secretary of War.