

THREAT OF REVOLUTION IN DETROIT

Detroit July 16, 1797

Gentlemen, The growing amicable alliance, subsisting between the British Nation and that of the United States supersedes the necessity of an apology for this address to His Britannic Majesty's Judiciary of the Western District of Upper Canada.

When concert and coöperation become essential to the preservation of a community of Interests, all inferior considerations necessarily yield to the motives of self preservation and social duty; these principles apply strictly to the present circumstances of the approximate settlements of the United States & of your Royal Master, bordering upon the Strait, menaced at this moment by common dangers; and they will not only warrant, but enjoin upon the servants of these States respectively, coincidence of plan & arrangement to preserve tranquility & to prevent misfortune.

The introduction of foreign force to these sequester'd regions, by the Mississippi, is a chimerical Idea, but the apprehension of internal commotion is well founded, and, if not seasonably guarded against will burst forth in a moment when least expected, and involve these Settlements in scenes of Bloodshed & desolation.

the solid preventative to insurrection is the maintenance of an efficient regular military force. destroy this strong Arm of Government, & the hands of the Civil Authority will be found too feeble to repress the inclinations & to control the caprices of the great Mass of the Inhabitants, who will be followed in every excess by their numerous friends & relatives among the Savages.

A Competent armed force has been ordered to this Post, & I am informed that a reinforcement is daily expected at His Majestys Garrison of Amherstburgh but [it] is in vain Gentlemen that our respective Governments extend their paternal cares, and take precautions for the safety of these settlements while an Asylum is opened to desertion on

governor. He served in the northwestern wars of 1791-94, and was wounded while in St. Clair's campaign. He died in New Orleans, June 3, 1820. Sargent was a man of scholarly tastes, and numerous members of the Sargent line in succeeding generations have been distinguished for talent and achievement in their respective professions.