

But the Sauks, having got repeated information, by scouting parties, that the Americans were on the point of leaving St. Louis for this place, they were afraid, and would not go. Lieut. Graham, therefore, determined to proceed, with his small party of volunteers, to burn the gun-boat, in order to prevent its falling into the enemy's hands. As he was on the point of embarking for that purpose, two young Sauks arrived from the Sauks on the Missouri (where there are still ten lodges—say one-hundred men) express, with news that a courier had been sent by some French gentlemen, from St. Louis, to the Sauks on the Missouri, to notify them that a strong detachment of the enemy was to march from St. Louis on or about the 12th inst., to cut off the Indians at Rock River.

The courier from St. Louis was sent to the Indians on the Missouri, that they might immediately give information to those on the Rock River to be on their guard. Lieut. Graham, believing this report to be true, returned here on the 23d instant; but previous to his return, exclusive of circulating reports, the Indians at the Rock River sent word to me, and to the Indians above this, through the medium of a pipe, to inform me of the enemy's being on their way here, and begged that I would send them some ammunition, with one or two guns, and a few soldiers, to assist them in defending their lands, women, and children.

On Lieutenant Graham's arrival, I called together all the officers to have their opinions on the subject, and they universally agreed that it was absolutely necessary to send a small detachment, not only for the preservation of the post, but to retain the Indians in our favor. This small detachment, together with the aid they get from the Feuille with forty of his young men, will greatly encourage the Indians on the lower Mississippi, and prevent their joining the enemy, which necessity might otherwise compel them to do.

The Sauks, Renards, and Kickapoos that were about the entrance of Rock River when Lieutenant Graham was there, formed about eight hundred men, though, with the reinforcements that will join them by the time the detachments from this reaches them, I am well persuaded will reach from twelve to fifteen hundred men. Upwards of one hundred men, Sioux, Puants and Renards, from above this, passed here yesterday on their way to join the detachment. Ammunition, arms and tobacco are the principal articles the Indians are really in distress for.

I beg leave to remark that the critical situation of the country here at present absolutely requires that Robert Dickson should be here with the reinforcement of troops asked for by Lt.-Col. McKay. The Volunteer privates from Mackinaw and the Bay, though willing to serve their country, are becoming weary of garrison duty, and as the time for which they volunteered their services having expired, they hope to be soon relieved. I send Captain Grignon, of the Bay, express, with this communication. I have the honor to be, etc.

THOS. G. ANDERSON, Capt. Comd'g.