

for collecting for an expedition to come this way, is uncertain. I detained this letter three or four days, waiting the return of five Indians that had been gone about twelve days, in hopes to obtain from them more certain information; but, finding their stay too long, I send off this, as I know you are impatient to hear from this place.

Eight Indians went off, three days ago, to find out what detained the others. To them I gave orders to burn the boat, as I thought it would be impossible to send the number of men it would require to bring her up in case of an attack. As there is continually a number of Indians on the look out, we cannot be surprised on the least notice of their coming. We shall take our position on the island,¹ which is the best place for defense that I know on the Mississippi. I beg you will pay attention to those that go up with this, as we are dependent on them here for provision. As soon as the discovering party returns, if there is no appearance of the enemy coming up, I shall of course return. I hope ere this you have news from Mackinaw.

Sir, I am, etc.,

(Signed)

DUNCAN GRAHAM,

Lieutenant Indian Department,

(P. S.) Having finished this at ten o'clock at night, in the morning the discovering party arrived. They saw, yesterday morning, three large gun-boats under sail on their way up, about thirty leagues from here. It seems their fears prevented them from knowing their exact number. Before this reaches you, we shall, I hope, decide the business. As soon as it is daylight, I will send Lieut. Brisbois with a canoe well manned, if possible to know their strength. Should we be attended with success, you shall soon hear. I expect them after to-morrow. Nothing further at present. The 4th of Sept., about one o'clock in the morning.

(signed)

DUNCAN GRAHAM.

At five, a canoe arrived from the above; three Iroquois from the Riviere des Sotrax² having left their families on that river, and came here to get some ammunition, as they were quite destitute of that article.

FORT MCKAY, Sept. 7th, 1814.

To Lieut. GRAHAM—

Sir:—I received your communication of the 3d and 4th inst., and from the enemy's apparent force, I hope ere this the business is decided in our favor. I am much gratified to have it in my power to give a most flattering detail of good conduct of the Sauks, etc., to Lieut. Col. McDouall, who I am well persuaded, will be highly pleased with them. No news from Mackinaw, but hourly expected. The express for Mackinaw left here on the 29th ult., also an express for the Sioux on the 1st inst., not yet returned. In

¹ Rock Island, unquestionably.

² Sauter or Chippewa River, doubtless.