

Grignon's arrival from the Portage which will be at latest on the 27th; nor do I think the Lake practicable before that time. He will be strongly manned, and have two good boats. I trust the provisions are ready. I wish as many Indians as can be got to accompany him, as it will be saving of provisions. You will please exert yourself to effect this.

I shall not lose a moment as I trust to be at La Baye by the 6th or 7th May. It is impossible for me to do otherwise without sacrificing the country; nor am I able to collect a force before that time. I shall write you from the Portage, which I think to reach on the 22d. We must use all diligence to get into Mackinac lest the Americans should be before-hand with us—keep this secret.

Get five or six bark canoes if you can, and [two or three words cannot be made out.] We have had great difficulty to pass the Lake; the ice is still a solid body and no appearance of its breaking up. I shall write you fully by Lt. Grignon. Gen. Wilkinson's camp had been abandoned at French Mills. All their heavy cannon left, and four hundred sleigh loads of stores, etc., brought off. Col. Morrison is gone with four thousand regulars to attack Plattsburgh. The expedition to Detroit has not yet taken place; but we shall hear soon more of that. Hondez will leave the house to-morrow. He will give his boat to Lt. Pullman.

With best wishes, I remain, dear sir,

Your most truly,

R. DICKSON.

*Lt. Lawe, La Baye, Per Le Goupe.*

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J. B. BERTHELOT TO GRIGNON

McKINAC, May 1, 1814.

*Sir:*—Being assured that you will learn the good news which we have received by the couriers from York, I do not [trouble myself] to inform you of them. The reason is, that having an opportunity, I communicate them to Mr. Dickson, who cannot fail to make them known to you.