

service to Government but the Indians are perfect Free Masons when intrusted with a secret by a Canadian most of them being much connected by marriage.

Since my last Letter of the 13th of May Mr Gautier arrived here with a large band of Weenippigoes and [Menomonees] who had been with him to the Mississippi I would fain have had them stay here till I received orders from your Excellency, but they were impatient least the Chippeawas of the Plains and the Sackis should in their absence disturb their villages. They are gone with promises to bring me some prisoners from the Kaskaskias, scalps I have positively forbid to prevent cruelty and least they should pawn old ones or those of innocent persons a deceit I think them often guilty of. The Sioux Wabasha¹ was on his march to join Mr. Hamilton, but stopt on hearing of his defeat he has sent the interpreter with his son and some young men with a pipe telling me that he waits my further orders That he has silenced the Reynards and desires to know if I chuse he shall strike the Sabres [Sakis] for having had talks with the Rebels which he is ready to do. As well as all opposers of His Majesty's Arms. I am sending off some poudre and cloathing to his Nation as well as to the Weenippigoes and Menominies to endeavor to keep them firm in our Alliance, if they continue so we have nothing to fear from the Indians of that Quarter, I have been obliged to purchase goods upon this occasion, great part of which will remain in Store. As the assortment I wanted lay in those parcels I was obliged to buy and I hope your Excellency will not think the purchase ill timed it being of the greatest importance to secure these people in our Interest before the Rebels make any impression on them.

The Ottawas and Chippawas are here they do acknowledge that there was a report spread over the country to their disadvantage but positively deny having entered into

¹ Wabasha, The Leaf (Fr., *La Feuille*), was leader of the Sioux in the British operations on the upper Mississippi, during the Revolutionary war. See *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, vi., p. 250; vii., p. 176; ix., p. 290. He was father to the Wabasha who figured in the Black Hawk war. His village, like that of his son, was on the present site of Winona, Minn. (*Id.* ii., p. 194).— Ed.