

Admit that the Disaster has all the supposed consequent misfortunes, it is still more necessary for us to engage the Indians to take a part which will at once declare their Enmity to the Party they are engaged to act against, and make it more difficult for their French Friends to effect a Reconciliation should inattention or neglect leave room for the change on our part.

On the day after I received the extract of Lord George Germain's letter,¹ with a part of the General's [Haldimand's] letter to Colonel Bolton which Major De Peyster very properly forwarded, I sent a War Party engaged by the Lieut Cadot to be in readiness by the South Side of Lake Superior into the Country of the Scioux, a warlike people undebauched, under the authority of a chief named Wabasha of very singular & uncommon abilities, who can raise 200 men with ease, accustomed to all the attention and obedience required by discipline.

I have also wrote to a Monsr. Rocque, an interpreter paid by the Crown, for that nation, enclosing one of Genl. Haldimand's printed commissions, with a power from myself for enabling Wabasha to draw some necessaries from Rocque, to raise a body of his own Indians, and of any others, whether Indians or whites, which he may choose to add to his Suite. I have recommended to him to lose very little time in getting as low down the Mississippi as the Natchez, to take for his interpreter amongst our Friends there a Mr. [John] Key who I have instructed to put himself under Wabasha's command and to serve him in that capacity of a commissary, to carefully attend to the accounts which he

¹ Spain declared war against Great Britain, May 8, 1779, and in July her American subjects were authorized to attack Natchez and other English ports on the east bank of the Mississippi. Lord George Germain, secretary for the colonies, wrote to Haldimand, June 17, informing him of the action of Spain and ordering him to attack New Orleans and the other Spanish ports on the river, in coöperation with an expedition under Brig. General Campbell, who was to proceed up the Mississippi to Natchez with an army and fleet. Haldimand issued these orders in a circular letter to all the Western governors. De Peyster forwarded it from Detroit to Sinclair, at Michilimackinac, under date of Jan. 22, 1780. Sinclair refers to the receipt of this communication.— Ed.