

River & purposing to continue his plan to the Illinois, I shall take the first opportunity of transmitting it to your Excellency, agreable to L' Du Vernets request. At the same time take the liberty of commending his diligence, as to his capacity I dare not give my opinion knowing my own deficiency in those points, which no officer ought to be ignorant of.

I have got his French Medal from Wanaquibé Chief of Pouteouattamies of S^t Joseph, in presence of 200 Chiefs & Warriors at the Miamis Country.

Our numbers at present are nearly as follows — Detachment of the Kings 32 noncommission'd officers included — With the Artillery 2 Gunners, 4 of the Kings & 17 from the 2 Detroit Companies which are each at 44, officers included. La Mothe's Volunteers 42, Ottawas 40 Chippoways 20, Wyandotts 4, Pouteouattamies 15, Pouteouattamies of S^t Joseph 15. Miamis 30 (Women are not included in this return of the Savages). The Shawanese are expected this night with Capt McKee,¹ who writes me word that they attempted a Fort built by the Rebels at the Falls of the Ohio, but only succeeded in destroying a parcel of Tools. I shall endeavour to cut off the communication from that Fort to the Illinois & perhaps shall find the taking that Fort an object well worth attention — The Rebels are building a Fort in the Island at the Falls. I hear the Miamis of the Riviere a l'Aiguille will join us. We have had pretty sharp frost, but fine clear weather — by damming up the water of this petite riviere 4 miles below the landing, the water is backed & raised an inch here. At the dam it rose an inch the first

¹ Alexander McKee, a Pennsylvanian by birth, became an Indian trader in early life; and between 1768 and 1772 had his headquarters at Pittsburgh, conducting, in company with Alexander Ross, a large business in that line. In the latter year he became deputy Indian agent to Sir William Johnson. When the Revolutionary war broke out, suspected of entertaining a preference for the royalist cause, he was put upon his parole at Fort Pitt; but in the spring of 1778 fled from there in company with Simon Girty and others and joined the British at Detroit, where he was continued in the Indian department. He appears to have been particularly efficient among the Shawanese. — (Butterfield's *Washington-Irvine Correspondence*, p. 352.) — Ed.