

FORT MCKAY, PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1815.

SIR,—I have now to acknowledge the receipt of the two despatches sent to me some time ago, viz.: one from His Excellency Governor Clark, the other from Colonel Russell, answers to which it was not in my power to get conveyed to Saint Louis without imminent hazard to the person carrying the same.

The official intelligence of peace reached me only yesterday, upon which I adopted the most prudent, and at the same time decided, measures, to put a stop to the further hostilities of the Indians; and I most ardently hope, and strongly believe, that the steps I have taken will be attended with the good effects which the British Government and that of the United States are so desirous of.

I propose evacuating this post to-morrow, taking with me the guns, &c., captured in the Fort, in order that they may be delivered up at Makinac, to such officer as the United States may appoint to receive that post. My instructions were to send them down the Mississippi to Saint Louis, if it could be done without hazard to the party conveying them.

My motives for immediately withdrawing from this Post, will be best explained by the enclosed extract from the instructions of Lieut. Colonel McDouall commanding at Michillimakinac. I have not the smallest hesitation in declaring my decided opinion that the presence of a detachment of British and United States troops, at the same time, at Fort McKay, would be the means of embroiling either one party or the other, in a fresh rupture with the Indians, which I presume it is the wish and desire of both Governments to avoid.

Should the measures I have adopted prove in the smallest degree contrary to the spirit and intent of the Treaty of Peace, I beg that it may not be considered by the Government of the United States as proceeding from any other

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Territory, which office he held until the organization of the state in 1821, when he was defeated in his candidacy for governor of the commonwealth. In May, 1822, President Monroe appointed him superintendent of Indian affairs at St. Louis, and he continued as such until his death, which occurred in that city, Sept. 1, 1838.—ED.