

Royal Artillery & a sergeant, corporal & twelve smart fellows of the Michigan Fencibles. I next appointed Major McKay to command the whole, with the local rank of lieutenant colonel, & in thus acceding to both their requests the chiefs told me they had not a wish ungratified, that they & their young men would die in defense of their gun, but as to McKay they had not words to express the fulness of their delight & satisfaction; he is certainly well qualified for the task he has undertaken, being determined yet conciliatory, well acquainted with the language & mode of managing the Indians, & familiar with the place intended to be attacked.

Everything being prepared, Lt. Col. McKay sailed under a salute from the Garrison on the 28th ultimo, taking 75 of the Michigan Fencibles and Canadian Volunteers & about 136 Indians. He arrived at Green Bay about six days after, at which place such was the great zeal displayed, that his force was immediately doubled, but as every arrangement had been made previous to his departure for the junction of the Winebago & Follsovine¹ Indians at the portage of the Ouisconsing River, I have scarcely a doubt but that his force at that place will be at least 1,500 men, besides being afterwards joined by the Sioux from River St. Peters & other tribes. Upon the whole, this rapid advance of Genl. Clark's upon the Mississippi, may ultimately prove a lucky circumstance, it has already tended to unite the Indians in the common cause, & tribes who before have cherished an hereditary enmity for nearly centuries have, on this occasion, forgot their ancient feuds, & vie with each other who shall be foremost in chastising the merciless invaders of their country; the horrible cruelties which the enemy in their late operations have been guilty of, has roused such a spirit of vengeance amongst them that I am apprehensive if they do not effect their escape, neither the Genl. or his troops stand much chance of being able to recount the tragic particulars that will ensue. This Ruffian on taking the Prairie des Chiens, captured eight Indians of the Winnebago Nation; they cajoled them at first with affected kindness, set pro-

¹ Folles Avoine, or Menomonees.— Ed.