

by way of the River Thames, as also another by way of the Lake (Erie perhaps) in boats, the expedition was deferred until another time: that Tecumseh was actually killed last fall on the Thames with one of his brothers. He heard of the expedition under Gov. [William] Clark some time ago at the mouth of Rock River, that he (Gov. Clark) will have many Indians to encounter, and recommends strongly a garrison to be made at Prairie du Chien. He also says that the Indians are quarreling among themselves, that is to say, that the Sioux, Iowas, Winnebagoes, Folle Avoines and Rock River Saukies are for war, the Ottowas, Chippeways, Potawatomes, for peace. Gomo observes, that the Indians that go to Fort Wayne are very well used and that they get provisions and presents: that a great number of Indians were to have made [a] village with them at the head of the Lake, but the killing of the Kickapoo some time since, has dispersed them to different parts of the country. He is very uneasy about his friends at Belle Fontaine,¹ and told me, he was certain, that his brother was dead.

Having sent for the Indians to come to this place, I had no doubt but that a few, (say three or four) would have been allowed to come into the Fort,² but the commanding officer will not allow any one to come in, the day being blustry and surrounded by a concourse of people, asking a thousand questions, and he (Gomo) having had one of his ribs broke latterly in a drunken frolic, it was impossible to do anything complete. I do not see what use I can be here, if I am obliged to go out in bad or good weather, the distance of two or three hundred yards to discourse with an Indian who may wish to come with any information that he may have for me to hear. Without this plan is altered, we will no doubt, lose the good will of the Potawotomes of this country, for you know very well, it requires time and a little smoking with Indians, if you wish to have any discourse with them.

I shall await with patience your answer.

¹ In Monroe county, Ill. See Reynolds's *Illinois* (ed. 1887), p. 255.—ED.

² Fort Clark, at Peoria. See *ante*, p. 263, note.—ED.