

has returned to his friends. Thus you see what pains they take to avoid a war among themselves.

In March last, I was instructed to get the Pottawattamies of Illinois River to go to war against the Winnebagos on Rock River. The Pottawattamies had to council with the Chippewa's and Ottawas, and when I went up in April they agreed to go to war, provided that the United States would furnish them with arms and ammunition, this answer of the Pottawattamies was delivered by me as Indian agent to the Governor, but nothing has been done and now it is too late in my opinion.

The Pottawatamies of Rock River are curiously situated at present. By the beginning or middle of next month the whole of them must leave their villages as is customary every year, to go to their wintering places. They have perfectly adhered to the armistice entered into with Gen. Harrison as relates to being quiet and not visiting the British, nevertheless now they are on the point of moving to their hunting places, but they have not a pound of gunpowder, many have no arms, nor can they get them, without they accept them of the British, who are now on Rock River and who no doubt know full well the want of the Pottawatamies for these articles, and will make an offer of presents to them, and common sense will tell us that the offer will not be refused.

It appears to me, that we have hardly ever had a council or treaty with any of the Indian Nations, that both parties were contented. Therefore, there must be fault somewhere. It is a maxim with the British Government (and I think a very good one) that no person is eligible for the place of Superintendent or Agent of Indian affairs without he can talk some one of the Indian languages, by which means it is supposed that he is acquainted with the manners and customs of the Indians: certainly it is not to be supposed that a man from the interior of the U. States, who perhaps never saw an Indian in his life before he came to this country, can know how to treat Indians and obtain their good will. It is not to be expected that a man thus situated can know the characters of the different Indian Nations and the characters of the different individuals of the different Nations. I would