

trade through its proper channels, than by underselling the British traders; to shut them out totally, would be making bad worse, as none of our traders or factors will credit the Indians so extensively as the British traders, and it would take such a vast quantity of woollens to supply all the Indians that it appears that it would be many years before everything could be got in operation to content both parties.

Another thing, without you can fully supply the Indians with goods for their furs, they would suppose that the shutting out of the British traders were intended to injure them, and not the whites. Any person conversant in Indian affairs must agree, [that with] a department judiciously organized, furnished with presents for the Indians as above mentioned, having an auxiliary here, merchants who would furnish our traders with goods equal in quality and price to those brought from Canada by which means our citizens would at least have a share in the Indian trade, and stop the baneful influence of foreign emissaries in the character of traders, and a total dependence on us for their supplies, the Indians would never again attempt to raise the tomahawk against the U. States.

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FORSYTH TO EDWARDS.

St LOUIS, Mar. 31, 1816.

I have to acquaint you that I arrived here last evening from the Illinois river, suffering much from wet and cold during the trip. On my way up I fell in with eight lodges of Kickapoos and Potawattamies at the grand pass, among whom was the Main Pogue, who has lost his hearing in a great measure, and is also otherwise unwell, and I think if he can procure any more spirituous liquor the white people as well as the Indians will get rid of a very troublesome character. At Arrowstone creek I found several lodges of Kickapoos who informed me that there were still twenty lodges of Kickapoos under the old chief Pemwatome on the Mississippi: that they could not return home last year for want of horses, and as yet they do not know where they will build their villages; that the Saukies are peaceably inclined on the