

river; part only of the Saukies talk of going, but in my opinion, if any go, the whole of the Nation will follow.

FORSYTH TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR.¹

St LOUIS, Sep. 29, 1817.

Previous to the late war, my brother² and myself were partners in trade under the firm of Kinzie and Forsyth. We had purchased goods in Detroit on credit to trade at various places, at Chicago and Peoria, the first being the place of residence of my partner, and the latter my place of residence. In June 1812 we shipped on board a vessel at Chicago, for Detroit, furs and peltries to a large amount to pay for the goods we had thus purchased. Mackinaw having fallen into the hands of the enemy early in the war, the master of the Vessel (on board of which our Furs and Peltries were shipped) not knowing of the war or that Mackinaw had fallen into the hands of the enemy, put into that port as usual.

The Vessel and Cargo were immediately taken possession of and all became lost. In August following, the troops at Chicago were all killed or taken prisoners by the Indians, and our loss of property there became great, and had my brother not been a man of much esteem by the Indians, himself, wife and children would have fallen under the tomahawk.

The months of Oct. and Nov. of same year our property was all destroyed at Peoria, first by the Indians and secondly by a party of militia commanded by Capt. Craig of Shawanoe town in Illinois territory, and myself with all the Inhabitants then at that place brought down by Craig and his party, after burning many of our houses and keeping much of our property.³

These losses have thrown a heavy debt on myself and

¹ George Graham, *ad interim*.— ED.

² John Kinzie, his half-brother.— ED.

³ See Thomas E. Craig's report of this affair, in *The Edwards Papers*, p. 80. It was evidently written while the author was greatly excited. See also, Reynolds's *Illinois* (ed. 1887), p. 251.— ED.