

CAPT. M'LEAN TO GREEN.

AMHERSTBURG 12th July 1799

SIR,—The Sloop Francis arrived here yesterday from Fort Erie laden with provisions and Stores for this Post and the Island of St. Joseph, she is unloaded and immediately to return to Fort Erie.

I received a few days ago a letter from Mr President Russell by which it appears that as usual, he has lately received a false alarm from this quarter in consequence of a Letter written by me to Capt. McKee proposing indeed by his own desire a mode by which the necessities of the Indians might be sufficiently attended to without any unnecessary profusion, and this was rendered absolutely necessary by the Conduct of the Indians every day in disposing in large quantities of rum, of the corn and other articles of provisions received unnecessarily, which neither Capt. McKee nor Mr Selby from their residence at Sandwich cou'd have observed, but of which I acquainted the former previous to writing him the Letter in question, which his absence made it necessary should be communicated to him in that way, and which I thought the most eligible mode to prevent any future misrepresentation. I received no written answer in return, but soon after saw Captain McKee when he coincided in opinion with me, but added that he must report to Mr President Russell and to Capt Claus, from which I am confident the letter to Capt Claus under his signature neither contained his sentiments or originated with himself, but is merely the production of Mr. Ass't Sec'y Selby, to whom it is no new thing to create trouble, If Capt. McKee was not too much under his influence and guided by his Council, I am certain the Indians wou'd be better managed without any unnecessary expense, I enclose for the Commander in chiefs information Copy of the Presidents letter to me with my answer, which may serve to throw some light upon this business, likewise a Copy of Capt. McKees letter to Capt. Claus and of my letter which produced it, I am sorry that the false reports so frequently propagated in this way are attended with so much trouble,