

and it occupies no small part of my time (that might be employed to better purposes) in confuting and contradicting them.

That there has been any complaint from the Indians is a great falsehood. Two days ago we had a council consisting of about 200 of the neighbouring Indians and 50 others (Saachs & Foxes tribes) from the Mississippi side and not the smallest expression of murrer or discontent among the whole, to which all the officers of the Garrison who were present can bear testimony. The chief cause of the Council was to deliver up to their friends three female prisoner children taken by the Potawatamies from a Nation called the Piankishaws, & sent by the former to be delivered up. These prisoners were brought here by the Saachs and Reynards or Foxes, who received them on their way to this place from the Potawatamies, and they signified a wish that the neighbouring Indians should be present at the ceremony of restoring these poor Children to their friends in which they were indulged, when peace and unanimity was strongly recommended to the whole of them and which indeed the different Tribes recommended to each other and promised to observe themselves, and to pay no attention to the tales of ill disposed Birds that might be inclined to disturb their repose.

The 50 Saachs and Reynards from the Mississippi Came in with an Indian sent out in the spring by order I believe of Mr. Russell to procure intelligence, and have contributed in no small degree to the expense of this Post, they are an able body of men and not so Corrupted in their morals as the Indians of this vicinity, and more in a state of Nature. But I do not understand the policy of encouraging them from so great a distance. There were twenty of the Same tribes here last year, but it appeared or at least was pretended that they came here by mistake, having produced an American Flag and a letter which had been sent them by Genl. Wilkinson but which they said (or at least others for them) they understood had been sent by our Gov't and was the Cause of their visit to know the purport