

spoken of in your Excy's communication to me, are now on board a vessel reported to be in port since I began this letter. Col. Hamilton is still here, and is setting at my table while I write. He talks of leaving to-morrow for the head qrs. of Genl. Atkinson—& I have charged him with my communication to the General in relation to his call for the Menomonees, and the steps taken on my part to send a Band of 200 of them to his aid, of which a Copy is enclosed to Your Excy. in my letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> instant.

I have endeavored to keep Colo. Hamilton here to the last moment, in order to see the number of Menomonee Inds. who may obey this call on them—as well as to ascertain the number of Militia, New York Inds. included, who may feel disposed to march under the command of Colo. Irwin;<sup>1</sup>—& more especially to give the Com. General in the field as accurate information as possible of the aid which he can count on from our exertions in this quarter.

It appears to me, Sir, that a crisis has arrived, which if not promptly and gallantly met by all entrusted with authority for the public good, will cause this fair & infant portion of the union to mourn for devastations by the scalping-knife scarcely inferior to those about to be poured upon us by the Scourging hand of an Almighty Providence. My fears are more than realized by putting to myself the following questions:

Will it be prudent, if practicable, for General Scott to hazard a conjunction of any portion of his diseased Command, with the healthy part of the Army already in the field under Genl. Atkinson? Would not the very rumor of Cholera under such Circumstances, drive every militia man from the side of Atkinson? Is it not within human probability that Indian Tribes, at present luke warm & indifferent as to the fate of this War (such as the Pottawattamies

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Tanner writes me, under date of November 16, 1887: "Mr. James M. Boyd says Alexander J. Irwin was commissioned to raise two or three hundred Oneidas and Stockbridges for the Black Hawk War. This he failed to do, as the Indians would not go. He then accompanied the Menomonee Indian expedition under Colonel Stambaugh, as lieutenant and commissary."—Ed.