

I do likewise, invest you with the command & direction of the Indian Department at Fort McKay, and on the Mississippi: the whole of the officers of which, are hereby commanded to abide by your orders & Instructions accordingly.



Given under my hand & seal at Michilim  
this first day of March, 1815.

RT. MCDOUALL, Lt. Colonel,  
comg Michilim'e & Dependancies—  
& com'g the Indian Department thereof.

*Capt. A. H. Bulger,*  
*com'g the Forces of His*  
*Majesty on the*  
*Mississippi.*

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FROM M'DOUALL.

MICHILIMACKINAC 1st March: 1815.

SIR,—I have hitherto delayed averting to that part of your dispatch, in which you require my instructions for your future conduct and guidance, in the anxious hope, that the Express from York would have arrived, & probably enable me to give you a good idea of the support & assistance which it would be in my power to afford you in the opening of the navigation. In fact, this communication is of such importance, and my dispatch without it would be so little satisfactory, that painful as it is for me to keep you so long in suspense, yet there appears an indispensable necessity for delaying it till Mr. Livingstone's arrival, daily, hourly looked for.

Notwithstanding the circumscribed resources of the Country, the scarcity of provisions & the general difficulty's of your situation, yet in defiance of all, it must be maintained & defended to the last extremity: to abandon it now, would be infinitely worse, than if we had tamely acquiesced in its conquest. It would beside be a measure in every point of view, pregnant with the most eminent danger, and not only occasion the loss of this Island, but