

tages which you could gain would be useless, & as our Indian Alliance is the Chief obstacle to a peace, we have here every prospect of being assailed by a formidable force in the Spring. Much will depend on our good fortune in receiving supplies and re-enforcements in the spring, & of course, according to these, will depend the extent of the assistance I can afford you. So convinced have I always been of the importance of being able to maintain ourselves on the Mississippi that my efforts to do so have *invariably* far exceeded *my* instructions. I should have been happy to have complied with your wishes, as to sending with you part of your men, but there then existed insuperable objecting against it.

In recommending the meeting the Enemy at Rocky River,¹ I had no intention of prescribing to you your plan of operations, as from your local information, you can form a more just idea of the best mode of defending the Country: it will be necessary for you to look well before you, & anticipate every probable situation in which you may be placed. Should you be forced from the Prairie des Chiens (which I most ardently hope will not be the case), I should hope there would be little doubt of making your retreat up the Ouisconsin River, with your Boats & *your* Guns, without much molestation, as the Enemy's Boats must be too large for that river, & at all events could not follow you far for fear of the Indians. Four of yours, should be always ready fitted to receive your Guns. I should think a very strong position might be taken up on the Fox River, near the Portage, from which the Enemy could not dislodge you (of course having your Guns) You would be surrounded by the Warlike Folleavoines & Winnebagoes, give protection to these nations (against whom the Enemy are very inveterate) & have an easy communication with this Garrison. These are mere suggestions thrown out for your considerations. As I have the highest opinion of your character as an Officer, so I am convinced that you will display equal judgment and determination in your conduct.

¹ Rock River.—Ed.