

ency to make the Indians believe they were purposely deceived & trifled with upon subjects of such peculiar interest & consequence to them.

The papers which I have sent you, will show you the progress of the Negotiations, & assist you in forming an opinion on this subject. Act in this (until my next Dispatch) with your usual discretion.

This report, however, must not be [to] suspend or relax in the smallest degree, the preparations necessary for your defence. The formidable attacks which will be made on the Enemy on every side, & particularly at the mouth of the Mississippi, will I trust (should the war continue) prevent them from undertaking anything serious against you. As to ourselves, the Enemy appear to have come to the positive determination of having this place, but we trust, not until they have our free will & permission.

You need not I think apprehend much from Dickson's misrepresentations—his character will soon be well known, & they will recoil upon himself. I have, however, done you strict justice with General Drummond, as a zealous & faithful servant to the Public. I am myself, in the same predicament. The same underhand, insidious suggestions have been used against myself, & were not my character well known to General Drummond & Sir George Provost, his malice & gross mis-representations might have done me serious injury. I however, view them with the most superlative contempt.

Exhausted as your resources are, yet our operations to the southward of the Mississippi, has suggested a strange scheme to Genl Drummond. They find the Indians at the head of the Lake, a useless burden, that they cannot feed, who in the last campaign, rendered little or no assistance. They have it in view to send them (I suppose by this place) to the Mississippi; thinking perhaps that with their assistance, you could take St. Louis, forgetting your being unable to feed those you have, the improbability that they will receive such intruders, without permission, & that on their whole route, havoc & desolation would mark their