

vengeance of the American Gov't at a time perhaps, when we cannot ward off the blow, or prudently interfere.

I am in great hopes that we shall succeed in gilding the bitter pill, which the Indians of this neighbourhood must swallow in viewing the surrender of this important Island to their inveterate Enemys. I have proposed, & have every reason to believe, it will be immediately acted upon, that a very strong Fort, to mount a number of heavy cannon, be commenced in the most eligible situation. I returned to-day from an excursion having that for its object; & very soon I am in hopes a formidable Fortress will be in progress. It must combine the advantages of a good harbour, for the future Naval Forces of this Lake, for it must not be disguised, that everything prognosticates an early renewal of the war. I expect Commodore Sir Edw^d Owen, or one of his Captains, to pronounce upon the latter point, accompanied by Captain Payne, Roy^l Engineers, with artificers, &c.

I have confident expectations that the whole Ottawa nation will remove to the vicinity of the new Post, which I am greatly desirous of effecting as it will place them out of the reach of American intrigue & secure to us a formidable band of faithful warriors, ever ready to fly at the first summons to the defence of our new establishment.

I have the honor to be,

Sir.

Your most obed servt

R^t MCDOUALL, Lt. Colonel,

Com'g Michilmack' & Dependances.

Captain Bulger.

Commanding on the Mississippi.

Fort McKay.

P. S. The Americans effect to exult much at the peace, tho' it is said that they are shut from the Fisheries, & also from the trade to our East and West India Settlements. In commenting on the peace to the Indians it will be right to state, that amongst other advantages which we shall derive from it, will be the opportunity which it