

same footing as before the war. Sir. Gordon Drummond's order, is, however, positive, & of course, leaves no alternative, but compliance. The irritation & sullen dislike, still subsisting & likely to subsist between the two Countrys require the utmost prudence and caution, lest we inadvertently sow the seeds of a new war, & heavy would be the responsibility thereof.

I trust I shall be able to retain this place, until all the Traders for the Mississippi have past on,¹ as I have my doubts, if the Americans would permit a grain of Powder to go to the Western Indians. If I succeed, (of which I have little doubt) they will this year be well supplied, & without the Traders being taxed with the usual heavy duties. You must take every prudent step which the case requires, to facilitate an intercourse, so highly beneficial to the Indian nations; but above all, let them not imbibe the fatal error, that the ample supply's of ammunition (should they prove so) are furnished them as an inducement to further hostilities: this would be equally detrimental both to them, & to us. Since the Peace *is* concluded, a war on our part is to be deprecated, & most sedulously avoided, until our Fleet on Lake Erie is restored, & until we have the supremacy of *this*.²

Two American Schooners, with Flour, Whiskey, &c. are now here from Detroit. The masters state that Colonel Miller, with the U. S. 17th Regt & other detachments, are to occupy this place, & also Chicaga. It is perhaps Brigr Miller, whom you may recollect at Detroit.³ I send the few Papers I received by the last express. Radenhurst will give the remainder of the news.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

RT MCDOUALL.

Captain Bulger

Com'g on the Mississippi.

P. S.—I met Assigenack⁴ & other Ottawa Chiefs this day

¹ Meaning the usual spring fleet of trading canoes from Montreal, destined for the Northwest traffic.—Ed.

² Doubtless meaning Lake Michigan.—Ed.

³ John Miller was colonel of the 17th U. S. infantry. The Army Register for 1814-15 does not mention a brigadier-general of that name.—Ed.

⁴ Siggenauk (or "Black Bird"), known also in Illinois history as Letur-