

## TO GOVERNOR CLARK.

FORT MCKAY — PRAIRIE DES CHIENS,  
23rd May, 1815.

SIR.—I have now to acknowledge the receipt of the two Dispatches sent to me sometime ago. Vez., one from His Excellency Governor Clarke the other from Colonel Russell; answers to which it was not in my power to get conveyed to Saint Louis without imminent hazard to the person carrying the same.

The official intelligence of peace reached me only yesterday<sup>1</sup> upon which I adopted the most prudent, and at the same time, decided measures, to put a stop to the further hostilities of the Indians, and I most ardently hope, and strongly believe that the steps I have taken will be attended with the good effects which the British Government and that of the United States are so desirous of.

I propose evacuating this Post to-morrow taking with me the guns &c captured in this Fort, in order that they may be delivered up at Mackinac, to such officers as the United States may appoint to receive that Post. My instructions were to send them down the Mississippi to Saint Louis if it could be done without hazard to the party conveying them.

My motive for immediately withdrawing from this Post will be best explained by the enclosed extract from the instructions of Lieut. Colonel McDouall Commanding at Michilimackinac. I have not the smallest hesitation in declaring my decided opinion that the presence of a detachment of British & United States Troops, at the same time, at Fort McKay would be the means of embroiling either one party or the other, in a fresh rupture with the Indians, which I presume it is the wish and desire of both Governments to avoid.

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<sup>1</sup>This would be the 22d. Alfred E. Bulger (*post*, p. 158) gives the date as the 20th, which is doubtless correct. Governor Clark's letter of March 22 arrived at Prairie du Chien April 16 (see *post*, p. 156), but Capt. Bulger appears to have waited five weeks, until after officially informed of the peace, before replying to it.—ED.