

the principal of some ingenious depredators, who when in danger of detection are among the first to bawl "Stop Thief!"

I repeat to Your Excellency my firm conviction, that the war of extermination with which the unfortunate Indians are threatened on the Mississippi, will be equally unjust and unprovoked. Unjust, inasmuch as the Americans have no right to seize their country and build forts thereon, never having possessed it *till after 1812*. Unprovoked, as I do not believe that a single act of hostility was committed by them, since the Peace was announced by Captain Bulger on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, at the Prairie du Chien. That officer made every exertion to recall the war-party that attacked the Americans on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, as mentioned in the letter of Col. Russell—but it was too late. They could not be overtaken. This affair Your Excellency will observe is the latest act of hostility which occurred, and I pledge my word to Your Excellency, that the Indians engaged in it knew nothing of the Peace, except from American reports, which they imagined were purposely circulated to deceive them.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's Most Obedient Servant,

RT. MCDOUALL, Lieutenant-Colonel

*To His Excellency,*

*Sir F. P. Robinson, K.C.B.,*

*&c. &c. &c.*