

of Rock river, by an American officer) from Governor Clark, the chief executive officer in command at St. Louis. This letter announced the reestablishment of peace between Great Britain and the United States. This unexpected announcement was accompanied by a printed copy of the treaty of peace, as published by the American authorities at Washington.<sup>1</sup> The commanding officer considered it his duty to lose no time in acting upon it, so far as to recall the war-parties in advance, and before May 10 over eight hundred Indians had returned to Fort McKay in a state of great excitement and indignation.

The Indians were included in the treaty. The eleventh article secured them in the rights to which they were entitled before the war, and Great Britain became the guarantor of those rights; but no provision was made in regard to the fulfilment of the promises made to the tribes of the West on taking up arms on the British side at the beginning of the war, viz:—"The restoration of certain hunting grounds of which they had been unjustly dispossessed by the Americans." It was a peculiar and most mortifying position for the commanding officer to be placed in, he having in less than a month past announced to the Indians in council, by the express command of the commander of the forces, that the refusal of the American government to restore these very lands in question, was the reason why the negotiations for peace had been broken off. "It was rather hard that officers commanding outposts should be made the channel of these vacillating communications, having so strong a tendency to make the Indians believe they were purposely deceived and trifled with upon subjects of such peculiar interest and consequence to them."

Intelligence of peace having spread throughout the country, the number of Indians assembled at Prairie du Chien had largely increased, and included all the head chiefs of the neighboring tribes. To these latter, the provisions of the treaty, as received from Governor Clark,

---

<sup>1</sup>See *ante*, p. 126.—ED.