

renewed,¹ & as it is necessary to be constantly prepared to repel them, the Indians, more immediately on the bank of that river, & in its vicinity, must be looked to, & by every possible means encouraged boldly & promptly to assemble to protect their country, & repulse the invaders. Every means should be taken to get the earliest information of such intention of the Enemy, that the Sauks, Renards, & Scioux may be supported with your whole force; the former nation, numerous & warlike, it will be always good policy to join, & not suffer them to be overpowered or their villages destroyed.

In the event of being attacked, & countenanced by the Garrison of Fort McKay, with their Field pieces, the Indians will probably augment around you in such numbers, as may not unlikely present an opportunity of inflicting a signal blow upon the Enemy. It will be highly impolitic to suffer the storm to approach too near the Prairie des Chiens; on the contrary, a resolute determination to encounter it at the rapids of the Rock River, the scene of former success, will afford every prospect of similar, or even more splendid triumphs. As the Tribes alluded to are reserved for your assistance, so those in the vicinity of Green Bay must be peculiarly set apart for the defence of this Island. You will, if possible, on your route, see Thomas, Tête de Chien, & other chiefs, with Mr. Dickson, and let that (for us) important point be settled, & understood beyond the possibility of mistake, & also the officers of the Department who are to bring them in, which should be done, the instant that the season admits: any lukewarmness, or want of zeal in *insuring* us

¹ With a desire to retaliate on the Rock River Sacs for their treatment of Campbell, earlier in August (*ante*, pp. 11-12), Maj. Zachary Taylor set out from St. Louis late in that month, with some gunboats and a small infantry force. On arrival at Rock Island rapids, early in September, he found the British on hand, with several Creoles and their Indian allies. The Americans were badly defeated in the sharp fire, and finally retreated down river with a loss of eleven killed and wounded. See references to this affair, in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, ix., pp. 198, 199, 219-233, 254-255, 272.—Ed.