

*Father*—Believe not that if you should have any troubles with the Red Coats,<sup>1</sup> that any of us will mix in them. We first saw the French; they were our first Father; Next to them, came the Red Coats. Now, our determination is not to listen; and should you have any shock among you, we shall remain neutral.

*Father*—I tell you no lies—All the other nations think as we do, and it is my reason for repeating it now. You have doubts respecting your children the Red Skins. Why have you brought big guns along with you? Certainly it must have been with a view of using them against us. We hope that you will have no use for them, but we do not like to see them in the country.

*Father*—All that I am telling you is the truth. The French inhabitants residing in this country, who are acquainted with us, and who assist us in our wants, were you to drive them away from the lands they occupy, as well as those at the Prairie du Chien, you would indeed reduce us to charity. We are desirous that our Father would send these words to our great Father (the President) and we should be happy in soon hearing from him.

*Father*—Do not believe that I tell you any false words. When the French agent for Indian affairs resided among us, we were comparatively happy. He treated us with victuals, and clothed us. If I tell lies, the French inhabitants who are present, can contradict me.

*Father*—I conceive myself an object of pity, as are also the young men who accompany us. Your American agents have always cheated us—I will not believe that you (Col. Bowyer), will do the same. The English have also cheated us, and led us wrong. We are not, as other tribes, in the habit of incommoding our father at every moment. All that you have promised our chiefs, I hope you will perform, in order that they will inform their young men of the real character of their father.

*Father*—The master of life is above us, and who is our master? You see me almost naked, and because I am not

---

<sup>1</sup> English troops. — Ed.