

before the enemy at the moment General Drummond took the command; the columns were instantly countermarched & led on to the attack, & this system, amidst unprecedented difficultys, & struggling with overwhelming [numbers], was persevered in, till it triumph'd at last, the American army being obliged to blow up Fort Erie & cross to their own side.

I implicitly credit the distressing scenes you have witnessed, and am fully aware that the supplies you took with you are totally inadequate to relieve the *general* misery of the Indians. I am convinced, from the state of matters, on our own side, & the still more deplorable situation of those on the southern shores of Lake Michigan (who have got nothing Mr. Dickson knows best why) that *ten times*, the quantity of goods which arrived, would not be sufficient to place all the Indians who have claims upon us, above want. What then would have been their horrible fate, but for the exertions of the Govt and the singularly fortunate capture of the Enemy's schooners, in which you bore so creditable a share? What folly then it is, what more than childish imbecility, to inspire the Indians with false hopes of abundant supplies, which, with the Enemy's naval superiority, never can be realized. Who that has manly sincerity, or common reflection, would hold out the "solemn promises of Government," (to use the hackneyed phrase) to that unfortunate people; would so grossly and fatally deceive them, as to *assure* them of supplies, when it is beyond doubt in the power of the enemy to prevent our receiving a barrel of powder or a blanket, except perhaps, the few that may arrive by stealth in such canoes as were so fortunate to elude their vigilance. What will become of Mr. Dickson's "solemn promises" this year, should the Enemy, as is said to be their intention, succeed in such an early & strict blockade, as will cut off our supply: Government, I fear, in that case, will find it difficult, to load Balloons at La Chine, and direct their unerring course to the Mississippi. & if they do not, it will be a burning shame. their "good faith is implicated," they