

Neighborhood (most of them, indeed being absent on their wintering grounds) news of such great importance to them. And Chebainse, a principal Pottewattamie Chief having been here with Lieut't Cadotte of the Indian Department, from Grand River, (Lake Michigan) I sent with him on his return, a Belt of Wampum, giving him the full particulars of the intentions of our Government in their favour, & directing him to circulate the news, among his own nation & also the Miamis, Kikapoos, Delawares & Wyandots. This he faithfully and zealously promised to do. He likewise informed us that most of the Tribes just mentioned, tho' a number of them had been compelled to make peace with the Americans at Grenville, yet having been deceived by them, had determined to leave, and declare against them; that the two first Tribes had actually done so, & joined the *Bad Sturgeon* a Pottewattamie chief zealously *attached to us*, at Theakiki River; that the others were anxious to follow their example, but that their removal required great caution, themselves and family being in the power of the Enemy & besides not having any ammunition wherewith to defend.

Chebainse added, that they only required arms and ammunition in the spring, & a little cloathing for their women & children, of which articles they were deplorably destitute, to rush upon the enemy.

From the wily character of the Indian, & his propensity to change sides as the events of the war proves adverse or prosperous, it is difficult at times to implicitly rely on their statements and professions. Chebainse has however, been uniformly zealous for our side, & Cadotte speaks highly of his influence & exertions. (I had sent the latter with what supplies *we could spare*, for the wretched and starving Indians of the Grand River, & of St. Joseph | whom it is of the last importance not to lose | but a mere trifle in comparison of yours.) He was highly pleased with the result of his mission, and stated that the news he carried back would rejoice all the Nations. Chebainse was with us on the 4th of August—Captain Askin gives great credit to his statements, & tho' I received them with some caution,