

"My Children!"—"You know that the Americans (called by you the Big Knives¹) unjustly declared war against the King your Great Father, at a time when most of his soldiers and ships were employed in fighting the French, who first discovered you. He has again completely subdued that powerful nation, who are now his friends, and who would willingly assist him against the *Big Knives*, if he required their help. That deceitful People knowing that they were unable to resist his victorious Troops, sent commissioners across the Big Lake² to treat for peace. Your Father the King, faithful to his promises which he made to his Red Children, resolved that justice should be done to them, and would not listen to any proposal of the American Government unless they would first agree to redress your wrongs, restore to you again all the lands which they have robbed you of since their General Wayne's treaty of Greenville,³ dismantling their Forts, and withdrawing their Troops from within the new boundary, and the country thus restored to you, to be entirely independent, as well as all the Indian nations, whose rights were in future to be held sacred."

"My Children!"—"The reply of the Big Knives ought to sink deep into your hearts and never be forgotten. They positively refused to comply with the moderate, just and reasonable demands which the King your Great Father had stipulated in your favor, or that the Indian nations, should in any shape be included in the Treaty. The King your Great Father seeing there was no other resource, ordered his ships, and those victorious Troops who above, have been able to conquer the French,⁴ to attack the Enemy on every side, and compel them to do you justice."

¹ The term "Big Knives" or "Long Knives" was applied by the Indians to the Virginian borderers, certainly as early as 1750. It probably had reference, originally, either to the long knives carried by white hunters, or to the swords worn by backwoods militia officers.—Ed.

² Atlantic ocean.—Ed.

³ Aug. 3, 1795, at Greenville, O.—Ed.

⁴ The day that McDouall presumably wrote this speech (Feb. 26, 1815), Napoleon left Elba for France.—Ed.