

they are not to have goods sent amongst them unless they strike the enemy. should they also misbehave I hope you see the necessity of curtailing the presents,—one hundred men more at this post would render it independent of the Indians. I have the honor to be &c

A. S. DE PEYSTER.

[Letter from Lieut. Thomas Bennett to Major de Peyster, enclosed with preceding letter. Source, same as that document, but pp. 392, 393.]

ST. JOSEPH'S 9th Augt. 1779.

SIR—In my last I informed you what fine Speeches the Pottawatamies made me. two days afterwards a Chief called the Petit Bled from Nipicons, came at the Head of the Different Bands of the Pottawatamies, & told me what was said before his arrival was without any other design but mere compliment, but he was now come to see his pure sentiments, that, they returned the detested hatchet and Pipe, which were brought here only to render their Villages miserable, he said they desired tranquility but still insists that he held sacred the hatchet of his former father the French King & would never quit it. as soon as he returned to his Vilage, the others came and made an apology for their Insolence, I gave them an answer such as I thought they deserved. Our Scouts have all been frightened back by Indian Reports, they seem all to be debauched by the thoughts of a French War.

We have not Twenty Indians in our Camp who are not preparing for leaving us, I believe you will join with me when I say they are a set of treacherous Poltroons, even Kewigushkum himself told the Pottawatamies that he did not come here with his own consent, but that he and his whole Village were drove to it, this in consequence of threats from the Poteawatamies Belts to the Ottawas and us. Mr. Bobie,⁹² an officer in Capt.

⁹² Charles Beaubien belonged to the family noted *ante*, p. 235, note 16. He was official interpreter for the Miami, and although accused by Lieut.-Governor Hamilton of treachery and collusion with the Americans, cleared himself and retained the confidence of his superiors. He