

& Flags to the Indians there, he has also sent one of his officers to Lake Superior to do as he has done, on his arrival at Mackinac he assembled all the Nations & had a great council there, after which he gave out Flags & Presents, as soon as I hear the particulars of the council I will let you know by the first opportunity.⁷⁹

1799: BRITISH PROTECTION AGAINST SPANISH

[Letter from Prideaux Selby⁸⁰ to Peter Russell. Source, same as preceding document, but vol. xxv, pp. 184-187.]

SANDWICH, 23rd January 1799.

SIR—The probability of an attack on this Province in the ensuing Spring as expressed in Your Honors several letters to the late Deputy Superintendent General⁸¹ induced that respectable officer, ten or twelve days before his death to honor me with a communication of many important matters relative to the defence thereof; and I should ill discharge the Duty I owe to the public and my Country were I to conceal on the present alarming occasion the plans and observations which it was his inten-

trigues. In 1791 he was reinstated in the army, and the following year was brigadier-general. At the death of Wayne (1796), the supreme command of the army devolved upon him, and from 1797-98 he was at Detroit. In October of the latter year he removed to Fort Adams, on the Mississippi. Accused of connection with Burr's conspiracy, Wilkinson was tried by court-martial (1811) and acquitted. At the close of the War of 1812-15 he retired to Mexico, where he died in 1825.—Ed.

⁷⁹ Wilkinson left Detroit August 3, 1797, and was absent on this tour of the northern posts just one month, arriving in Detroit Sept. 3.—Ed.

⁸⁰ Prideaux Selby was assistant secretary of the Indian Department at Detroit from 1790 to the evacuation; he then removed to Sandwich, where he remained until his headquarters were removed (1807) to York. In 1812 he was a member of the council of Upper Canada.—Ed.

⁸¹ Col. Alexander McKee, for whom see *ante*, p. 434, note 46.—Ed.