

moderate computation be estimated at three thousand fighting men.

“The Sakies and Foxes on the Ouisconsin and Fox River were by all possible means & exertions to be induced to resist any attempt of the French, Spanish, or unfriendly Indians to pass through their Country, for which purpose a considerable present was to be sent to each of the Nations by three of their young men who winter here accompanied by two Confidential Messengers, one of whom was to bring back with him some of their principal chiefs to confirm the friendship which was entered into (or pretended to be so) last fall at Amherstburg, and who would be considered by their Nations as hostages for their fidelity to Great Britain;<sup>82</sup> for if these nations have been seduced by General Collot<sup>83</sup> or his agents it is not improbable that their late visit to this Country may be preparatory to their entering it in a hostile manner; the other Messenger to remain among these people to give the earliest information of the approach of an enemy in that quarter or of any suspicious movements of the Indians themselves.

“The late Colonel McKee had also turned his thoughts to the great public advantages, to be derived from the spontaneous

<sup>82</sup> See an account of the embassy of these tribes and their leaving men to winter near Sandwich, in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii, pp. 105, 108.—Ed.

<sup>83</sup> Gen. George Victor Collot was born in 1751, and while still a young man joined the army, serving on Rochambeau's staff in the American Revolution. In 1793 he was appointed by the convention as governor of Guadeloupe, where after some difficulty he replaced a Royalist commandant. In April of the following year he surrendered the island to an English fleet, with the stipulation that he be allowed to retire to the United States. The French minister Adet commissioned Collot to make a tour of the Western country, to observe the temper of the inhabitants and the military situation. Leaving Philadelphia in March, 1796, he went down the Ohio, visiting Kentucky and St. Louis, and going down the Mississippi to New Orleans. He returned to Philadelphia in January, 1797. The results of his observations were embodied in a book published (1826) in Paris in French and English editions. The general himself died in Paris in 1805. For the underlying purposes of his journey, see *Am. Hist. Rev.*, x, p. 275.—Ed.