

INTRODUCTION.

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mented that his Majesty's posts would derive no security from the late great influx of Indians into that part of the country, should they persist in their resolution of returning so soon;" that the British agents were immediately to hold a council at the glaze, in order to try if they could prevail on the lake Indians to remain; but that without provisions and ammunition being sent to that place, it was conceived to be extremely difficult to keep them together; and that "Col. England was making great exertions to supply the Indians with provisions." "Scouts are sent (continues Col. M'Kee) to view the situation of the American army; and we now muster 1000 Indians; all the lake Indians, from Saguna downwards, should not lose one moment in joining their brethren, as every accession of strength is an addition to their spirits." Again: "I have been employed several days in endeavoring to fix the Indians who have been driven from their villages and cornfields between the fort and the bay. Swan creek is generally agreed upon and will be a very convenient place for the delivery of provisions, &c." These letters prove that there existed a covert but active co-operation of the British agents with Indians opposed to Gen. Wayne.

The same influence was exercised among the Creek and Cherokee Indians. A British subject of the name of Bowles assumed the title of Director General of Muscogee.

The correspondence* of American Indian Agents and military and civil officers near the western frontiers, with the department of state, affords ample additional

* See Appendix B.