

employ them if they can be brought to act with us. Much caution should indeed be used in the language that may be held with them, nor is it perhaps expedient to bring the subject forward at present until Hostilities are more certain, unless they themselves force it upon us, or unless the Americans are found to be gaining so much ground with them that it may be necessary to meet their progress by a direct address on our part.

By a copy of a speech made by Governor Hull of Detroit some time in August, now before me, I observe that he certainly restricts himself to the advising them to remain neutral. I am not inclined to place this to the sense of moderation, so much as to his having reason to believe that it would be in vain for him to attempt to engage their actual assistance; it will however always be brought forward as a proof of that disposition, but it is of too much consequence to us to run any risk of our Intentions being misunderstood by these people or of furnishing them with grounds for pleading such an excuse to admit of our too closely copying the affectation. Although, therefore, I would avoid coming to any explanation with them as long as possible, at least to any public explanation, yet whenever the subject is adverted to, I think it would be advisable always to insinuate, that as a matter of course we shall look for the assistance of our Brothers. It should be done with delicacy, but still in a way not to be misunderstood.

If indeed the Americans should make a direct proposal to the Indians to join them, either by any public act of their Executive Government or thro' the medium of the Governors of their Posts to any assembly of those people called together for the purpose, I think that in that case no time should be lost by messages to the different nations and by every other means that are usual in our intercourse with them to remind them of our long subsisting friendship, of the difference of the conduct which has been pursued towards them by the Americans and by us and that by joining the former and enabling them to drive us out of the country, if that were possible, they would only seal their own destiny, which would be almost immediate extermination.

I need not I am sure observe, if we should unfortunately be under the necessity of availing ourselves of Indian assistance, how desirous it will be on every principle of Humanity and of Policy that every practicable means should be adopted to restrain them in and to soften the ferocity of their usual mode of warfare. They should never be suffered to act alone if it can be avoided, but always with some of our people, though I am sensible that is very difficult, especially where the number of our Troops, either Regular or Militia, must be so small.

I shall be very glad to receive some information as to the history of the Prophet, as he is called, and the extent of his influence among the Indians; if this is great and some of our Indians Department can enter into an intercourse with him, it might be worth while to purchase it though at what might be a high price upon any other occasion.

I am aware that I have prolonged this letter by entering into much reasoning which might scarcely be thought required by the occasion. I have, however, been led into it from the reflection that as it was my object to avoid detail and to confine myself to what was necessary in the concerting of a very general line of co-operation, it might enable you to judge the better of the measures that might become expedient if you were made acquainted with the principles on which that line has been adopted. On your part I have to request that you will be so good as to communicate with me as to the state and strength of your Militia, as well as on the degree of dependence that can be placed on them. I shall like also to be informed of your other Resources and indeed of every circumstance that may suggest itself to you as what may be useful for me to know. I understand from the report of Lieut.-Colonel Bruyeres, that there is not one of your Forts that is in a state of making the slightest resistance and indeed judging by the plans of them, I think it is a fortunate circumstance that there is not a temptation for leaving Garrisons in them that would certainly be lost in eight and forty hours at any rate.

I have, &c.,

J. H. CRAIG.

His Excellency Lieut.-Gov. GORE.