

of finding at all times a large majority ready to take the field, and act in conjunction with our troops, but accounts received this morning state that they have determined to remain neutral, and had in consequence refused (with the exception of about 50) to join Captain Chambers' detachment.

I meditated, the moment I could collect a sufficient number of Militia, a diversion to the westward, in the hope of compelling General Hull to retreat across the river, but this unexpected intelligence has ruined the whole of my plans—The Militia which I destined for this service, will now be alarmed, and unwilling to leave their families to the mercy of 400 Indians, whose conduct affords such wide room for suspicion—and really to expect that this fickle race would remain in the midst of war in a state of neutrality is truly absurd—The Indians have probably been led to this change of sentiment by emissaries from General Hull, whose proclamation to the six nations is herewith enclosed—¹

I have not deemed it of sufficient importance to commence active operations on this line by an attack on Fort Niagara—It can be demolished when found necessary in half an hour, and there my means of annoyance would terminate—To enable the Militia to organize some degree of discipline without interruption is of far greater consequence than such a conquest—

Every thing shall be done in my power to overcome the difficulties by which I am surrounded but without strong reinforcements, I fear the Country cannot be roused to make exertions, equal, without support, to meet the present crisis—

I proceed immediately to York to attend the meeting of the Legislature—I hope to return on Wednesday—The charge of this frontier will in the mean time devolve on Lt Colonel Myers,² who appears worthy of every confidence—

The actual invasion of the Province has compelled me to recall that portion of the Militia whom I permitted to return home and work at harvest—I am prepared to hear of much discontent in consequence—The disaffected will take advantage of it and add fuel to the flame but it may not be without reason that I may be accused of having already studied to the injury of the service, their convenience and humour

¹ For text of this proclamation, see p. 72.

² Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Myers, 70th Foot. He was made a deputy quartermaster-general, 1810; was wounded three times, and made a prisoner during the war.