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Remarks on the Instructions and Orders for the Government of the Indian Department

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3^d Article of the Instructions dated Head Quarters Quebec 27th March 1789

When public conferences are held at any of the Posts between the Agents residing there and the Indians, the Commanding Officer shall preside, attended by all the Officers of the Garrison, to whom due notice is to be given on all such occasions. But he is not under pretence of this regulation to interfere with the Agent in the management of the Indian Department

Remarks

The Commanding Officers who change their commands Annually, and perhaps some who had never seen an Indian, must necessarily be perfectly unacquainted with Indians and their customs, and by their Presidium will only tend to lessen the influence the Superintendent should have and cause them to have less confidence in him than they otherwise would.

General Prescott's Orders dated from the Deputy Superintending Generals Office, Sandwich Upper Canada 5th January 1798

1st All the Officers of the Indian Department at the several Posts, are amenable to the Orders of the several Commanding Officers in the same manner as the other Departments are, and the independent conduct they have lately arrogated to themselves shall instantly cease.

The Indians have ever been considered as an independent people and I believe have been looked upon as such by Government, putting the Officers of that Department in so subordinate a situation, must defeat every purpose that they are intended for, to attract the Indians to them and gain their confidence, they will be looked upon by those people as not deserving the confidence of their Father, and of course they will not trust them or believe what they say, and will be held in contempt by them as they have it not in their power to say Yes or No, to any thing they may ask them.

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