

to all officers commanding posts upon the frontier, strictly enjoining them to restrain the Indians from the commission of any acts of cruelty, and concluding with the statement that "his excellency disapproves of any co-operation with the Indians not connected with the system of defense of the province."

In a subsequent letter to General Sheaffe, the adjutant-general said:

I am commanded to signify to you his excellency's desire that every precautionary measure may be taken throughout the district under your command to restrain the Indians whom it may be necessary to employ. Sir George Prevost is much averse to allowing the regular troops to be engaged with the Indians in any offensive operations, and it is his wish that in your communications with Colonel Proctor you will call his attention to this important subject and recommend to that officer a cautious line of conduct in this respect consistent with the preservation of the district committed to his charge.

Dickson received similar instructions on the 7th of January, 1813, when on the point of departure from Montreal for the far west:

In the policy to be strictly observed in your conduct toward the different tribes it is desirable that you should endeavor to conciliate them to act together harmoniously, that you should restrain them by all the means in your power from acts of cruelty and inhumanity, encouraging in them a disposition to preserve an alliance of friendship with their Great Father, the King of England.

On the 9th of February the governor-general said, in a letter to Colonel Proctor:

I earnestly recommend on all occasions a strict adherence to that control and restraint of the Indians that we may be enabled to repel the charges which have not infrequently, though falsely, been brought against our Government for resorting to the employment of them.

Again, addressing the same officer on the 1st of March, he returned to this subject:

You will explain to Norton and Roundhead in the most distinct terms the services the King expects from his faithful allies, the Indians, and assure them of His Majesty's entire reliance upon their zeal and courage in defending their best rights and preserving their future existence. Let them clearly understand the extent of the co-operation you can afford, consistent with the trust reposed in you, and above all recommend mercy in victory. The officers belonging to the Indian department must not be sparing in their efforts to restrain and control the Indians so that your achievements may be without stain.