

him that he must give the names of the purchasers ; that they must take the oath of allegiance and pay the fees. Brant was likewise informed that the lands had been given to the Indians for their security ; and Russell offered, on the part of the crown, to accept the offer which had been made by the other parties. Brant's view was that the land belonged to the tribes to do with it as they saw fit, without interference. The proposition of Brant for the sale of the townships was eventually recognised, by which an amount of £5,000 was secured to the Indians.

Brant's conduct had, indeed, given rise to suspicion of his loyalty and good intentions. Portland wrote, should he desire to come to London, no obstacle should be thrown in his way ; and he directed that vigilance should be exercised in observing what was passing between him and the Mississippi Indians, particularly those of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers.

Early in 1799, McKee, the deputy superintendent general, had died. Some twelve days before his death, he wrote his views on the defence of the province. He considered that there was little to be feared from the Indians of the United States, unless joined by people from Kentucky and the Ohio. But the communication to Lake Michigan was easy by the Wisconsin. The route by the Illinois was not so advantageous. He proposed to call together the Indians from Michillimackinac and Saint Joseph early in spring and to send out scouting parties ; and that an endeavour should be made to induce the Sakis and Foxes to resist the French. He pointed out the advantage of forming a treaty with the Sioux, the best of Indian warriors, all mounted, of whom 6,000 could be mustered. Likewise an attempt should be made to obtain the services of the Folles Avoines, placing them under British officers, and that all the Indians that could be mustered should be prepared to make a stand with the regulars.*

Brant, in a communication to Russell, expressed his

* [Can. Arch., Q. 286.1, p. 87, 25th January, 1799.]