

expressed wishes of the people, who had even proposed to invite the presence of the American troops, he had not considered it necessary to consult the Council before sending a reply to Major Hatch. But as the permission granted involved some responsibility he wished the Council to share the responsibility with him by confirming the act. The Council had no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that the Governor, in his whole dealings with the Sioux, and correspondence with the Americans, had only done what was necessary for the general welfare and safety of the Settlement, and had therefore no hesitation in confirming and approving the permission granted to Major Hatch, which they knew to be in accordance with the wishes of the people.

A Message from the Sioux.

The Governor further stated that he had received a message from the main body of the Sioux, on the Missouri, asking his advice as to making peace with the Americans, and hinting at a desire to visit the Settlement in spring. He had returned an answer advising the Sioux to make peace with the Americans, or to be prepared for a prosecution of the war with renewed vigour next summer.

Correspondence with Major Hatch.

The following is the correspondence with Major Hatch:—

LETTER from Major *Hatch* to Governor *Dallas*.

Headquarters, Independent Battalion, No. V. Pembina, D.T.,
March 4, 1864.

His Excellency A. G. Dallas, Governor of Prince Rupert's Land, &c. &c., Fort Garry.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that a party of murderers, belonging to the Sioux tribe of Indians, to avoid the just punishment of their crimes, have fled from before the military forces of the United States Government, and are now supposed to be temporarily located in the vicinity of Poplar Point, on or near the Assiniboine river.

The near approach of spring, and the danger of scattering and re-enacting in part the barbarous scenes of 1862 and '63, urges me to make every effort in my power to secure them. I cannot, however, take any steps which may, by any chance, place soldiers under my command in such a position that they may appear as trespassers on British soil.

Therefore, the locality of the forty-ninth parallel never having been officially determined, I do not feel justified in moving in pursuit of these murderers towards the point where they are now encamped, without the consent of your Excellency.

The great desire I have to prevent the murder of innocent women and children upon our frontier induces me to trouble your Excellency with the request that permission may be granted me to pursue and capture those savages, with an armed force, wherever they may be found.

I have, &c.,
(signed) *E. A. C. Hatch*,
Major Commanding.

LETTER from Governor *Dallas* to Major *Hatch*.

Fort Garry, Red River,
7 March 1864.

To Major *Hatch*, commanding U. S. troops at Pembina.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, delivered to me by Lieutenant Nash, stating that a party of murderers, belonging to the Sioux tribe of Indians, fleeing before the military forces of the United States, are now supposed to be temporarily located in the vicinity of Poplar Point, on or near the Assiniboine River, requesting permission to pursue and capture these savages, with an armed force, wherever they may be found.

In reply, I beg to state that the Sioux Indians have been refugees in this territory, much against the wishes of the inhabitants, and in the face of every discouragement on our part, to their appearance at all on this side of the boundary line.

It being, I believe, of the utmost importance for the safety and well-being of the civilized inhabitants of this part of the world generally, that a powerful tribe of Indians, inhabiting the borders of an undefined and unprotected frontier of large extent, should be disabused of the belief that they can, with impunity, commit their depredations and murders in one territory, and take refuge in the other in safety, for the time being ready to renew their operations when it may suit their inclination to do so. I have no hesitation in complying with