

not think it possible to retain that Post in its present state long against a force, yet I shall endeavour to reinforce it with Provincials till the Indian Nations can be assembled. It was on this principle that I was anxious that the Post of St. Joseph's should be reinforced by a few Regular Troops detached from the Lower Province by the Route of the Grand River.

Your Excellency will, I trust, pardon me for advancing an opinion that could we destroy the American Posts of Detroit and Michilimakinak that a great number of Indians would declare for us, of whose co-operation I am ever doubtful.

I feel the justness of your Excellency's observation, that in the event of war, if the Indians are not for us they will be against us. At the same time the delicate manner in which they ought to be managed and the danger of too precipitately pushing forward men so impatient, unthinking and ungovernable must always be kept in view. The mode of addressing them which you propose might, I think, have a sufficient yet not too violent an operation on their minds, but we must take care in this matter not to be too passive, for Reports do prevail, well or ill founded I know not, that some of the Indians have already discovered a degree of coldness in our cause.

Anxious not to mislead your Excellency with regard to the number of Indians who may be disposed to join the British Standard, I dare not venture to say further than that, on former occasions, between two and three thousand have been in the field. In these numbers I include the Indians round St. Joseph's, who are a powerful and active Race of men, having on former occasions come forward with alacrity when called upon and were distinguished by their Gallantry and Success. They consist of about six or eight hundred Warriors. As, however, directions have been given for a General Council to be held at Amherstburg, I shall hope to ascertain what assistance may be expected from them with some accuracy and I shall not fail to transmit the Proceedings of the Council to you.

The selection of the fittest Persons to be employed in conducting the Indians and restraining their impetuosity and ferocious disposition when engaged is an object of the utmost importance. I have no difficulty in communicating to your Excellency that I have for some time most anxiously wished for an influential character at the head of the Indian Department at Amherstburgh, where by far the greatest body of Indians assemble, and have used my best exertions to find out a proper person to head those Indians in the event of hostility as well as to take charge of their concerns at that Post. From every quarter where my enquiries have been directed the recommendation has exclusively fallen upon a Captain Elliott, who served with the Indians the whole of the American war, whose Influence and knowledge of their customs and Language point him out as the only person capable of producing a decisive impression on the minds of the several Nations and of conducting them with a temperate, though determined spirit, in any conflict with an Enemy. It is not to be conceal'd that Captain Elliott was removed from the situation he held in the Indian Department for supposed improper conduct by General Prescott and that this removal was confirmed by the King, but it is also to be stated that Captain Elliott's innocence is now universally believed in this Province and if I am to give credit to most respectable testimony, General Prescott was in that matter unfortunately misled by partial and unfounded representations, without being made acquainted with Captain Elliott's defence; under such circumstances however much I may believe Captain Elliott to be innocent I shall only feel myself justified in employing him till your pleasure shall be signified to me and then only in the event of an appearance of an immediate attack, or from other circumstances which require a prompt decision and where Captain Elliott's influence may be highly beneficial to His Majesty's service. In such case I trust the good of that service would prove a sufficient apology for my conduct.

I submit also to your Excellency's consideration that a Body of Indians will be very inefficient without they are accompanied by some regular Troops to direct and assist them and that other officers, besides those employed now in the Indian Department should be appointed to go on service with the Indian Nations; should you deem such officers to be necessary I believe that they could easily be found in this Province.