

Louisville, Falls of Ohio Nov. 19 1779.

My Dear Sir continue to favour me with your valuable
Letters, & attend to your Advice as though I was
your Son; when suspicious, think not that promotion or
conflict therein will occasion any unnecessary pride in
me, you have infused so many of your valuable precepts

in me to be guilty of the like, or to shew any indifference
to those that ought to be dear to me; it is with pleasure
that I obey in transmitting to you a short sketch of my
enterprises and proceedings in the Illinois as near as
I can recollect or gather from memorandums—
After disengaging myself from Kentucky, I set out for
Williamsburg in Aug. 1777 in order to settle my Act.
I had just before known to few but myself that
occasions me to resolve not to have any farther command
whatever, without I should find a very great call for
Troops and my Country in danger in such case
I was determined to loose my Life rather we should
submit. On my arrival at Town I found to
appearance a friend in ^{many gentlemen} ~~company~~ of note, that offered
an Interest to me in case I should offer at any Post.
Many was surpris'd that I would not relucit for some
Post. I must confess that I think myself often to
blame for not making use of Interest for my promotion
but to meet it first in such a fixed principal with me
that I never could, and I hope never shall ask for a
Post of Honour, as I think the Publick ought to be the
best Judge whether a Person deserves it or not, if he
did he would certainly be rewarded according to the
Virtue they had. But finding that we were in a alarming
situation, the Indians desperate on one side, the Britains
on the other I immediately ~~was~~ Resolved to encourage

an Expedition to the Illinois. But to make it publick
was a certain loss of it. I propos'd the plan to a few
Gentlemen, they communicated it to the Governour
it was immediately determin'd on, to be put in
Execution as soon as a Bill could be pass'd to
enable the Governour to order it: it accordingly pass'd
though but a few in the House knew the real intent of
it. After giving the Council all the intelligence I
possibly could, I resolv'd to pursue my other Plans,
But being desired by the Governour to stay some
time in Town. I waited with impatience; he I suppose
believing that I wanted the Command, and was
determin'd to give it to me; But it was far from
my Inclination at that time. I was Summoned
to attend the Council-Board; the instructions and
necessary papers was ready for putting in the name
of the Person to Command. I believe they expected
me to solicit for it, but I resolv'd not to do so, for
reasons I hinted you before. However I ^{accepted} ~~accepted~~ it
after being told the Command of this little Army
was design'd for me. I then got every request granted
and fully empower'd to raise as many Men as I
could, ^{not exceeding a certain number} after being engaged, I was then as Determin'd
to prosecute it with Vigour, as I was before indifferent
about the Command; I had since the beginning of the
War taken pains to make myself acquainted with
the true situation of the British posts on the

Frontiers; and since find that I was not mistaken
in my judgment - I was ordered to Attack the Illinois
in case of Success to carry my Army to any Quarter
I pleased I was certain that with five hundred Men
I could take the Illinois, and by my treating the
Inhabitants as Fellow Citizens, and shew them that I
ment to protect ~~them~~ rather ^{than} treat them as a Conquered
People. Engaging the Indians to our Interest &c.
It might probably have so great an effect on their Country-
men at Detroit, (they had already disliked their
Master) that it would be an easy prey for me -
I should have mentioned my design to his Excellency
but was consider'd, or afraid that it might lessen
his esteem for me, as it was a general opinion that it
would take several thousand to approach that Place.
I was happy with the thoughts of fair prospect of
undecieving the Publick respecting their formidable
Enemies on our Frontiers; (Left Williamsburg) January
the 18th, made as quick dispatch as possible to the
Frontiers, and by the end of the month had Recruiting
Parties ~~sent~~ ^{disper} from Pittsburg to Carolina, had my
little Army Recruited in half the time I expected -
Elevated with the thoughts of the great service we should
do our Country in some measure; ~~and~~ putting an
end to the Indian War on our Frontiers, it may
appear to you ~~to~~ be a mere presumption in me, but

I was always too jealous of myself to be far wrong
in ~~my~~ plans, that I had so long studied, and since
find that I could have executed it with the greatest
ease if it had not been following conduct of many
leading Men in the Frontiers, that had like to have
put an end to the enterprize, not knowing my
Distination, and through a spirit of obstinacy they
combined and did every thing that lay in their power
to stop the Men that had enlisted, and set the whole
Frontiers in an uproar, even ~~condemned~~ ^{condemned} to harbour and
protect those that Deserted; I found my case desperate,
the longer I remained the worse it was. I plainly saw
that my Principal Design was baffled. I was resolved
to push to Kentucky with what men I could gather in
W. Augusta; being joined by Capt. Bowman and
Belme, who had each raised a company for the Expedition,
but two thirds of them was stoppt by the undesign'd
Enemies to the Country that I before mentioned. In the
whole I had about one hundred & fifty Men collected
and set sail for the Falls. I had previous to this
received Letters from Capt. Smith on Holdston informing
me that he intended to meet me at that place with
near two hundred Men, which encouraged me much
as I was in hopes of being enabled by that reinforcem^t,
at least to attack the Illinois with a probability of
Success &c

6
I set out from Redstone the 12th of May leaving
the Country in great confusion, much distressed by
the Indians. General Hand, pleased with my
intentions furnished me with every necessary I wanted
and the 15th of May I arrived at the Canoway to the Joy
of the Garrison as they were very weak, I had the day
before been attacked by a large Body of Indians.
Being joined by Capt. Charward's Comp^y. on his way
to the Quark; after spending a day or two, we set out
and had a very pleasant Voyage to the Falls of Ohio
having sent Expresses to the Stations on Kentucky
from the mouth of the River, for Capt. Smith to join
me immediately as I made no doubt but that
he was waiting for me; But you may easily guess
at my mortification on being informed that he had
not arrived; that all his Men had been stop'd by the
insolent labours of the populace, except part of a Comp^y.
that had arrived under the Command of one Capt. Delano
Some on their March ^{being} threatned to be put into Prison if
they did not return; this information made me as
Desperate as I was before Determined.

Reflecting on the Information that I had of some of
my greatest opponents censuring the Governour for
his Conduct, as they thought, ordering me for the
Protection of Kentucky only; that and some other

secret impulses occasioned me in spite of all Council
to urge the Expedition to convince them of their error
until that moment, secret to the Principal Officers
I had - I was sensible of the impression it would
have on many, to be taken near a thousand
from the Body of their Country to attack a People five
times their number, and merciless Tribes of Indians
their Allies and determined Enemies to us.

I knew that my case was desperate, but the more I
reflected on my weakness the more I was pleased
with the Enterprize, joined by a few of the Kentucky
ans, under Col^l Montgomery to stop the ^{destruction} ~~destruction~~
I knew would ensue on the Troops knowing
their ~~Disadvantage~~ ^{Disadvantage} I had encamped on a small
Island in the middle of the Falls, kept strict Guard
on the Boats, but ~~in spite of~~ ^{in spite of} Lieutenant Hutchings ^{Sept 8, 60}
contrived to make his escape with his party after
being refused leave to return, luckily a few of his
Men was taken the next day by a party sent after
them; on this Island I first began to discipline
my little Army knowing that to be the most
essential point towards ~~success~~ most of them
determined to follow me, the next seeing no probability
of making their escape I soon got that subordina-
tion as I could wish for; about twenty Families
that had followed me much against my

12
should immediately enjoy all the priviledges of our
Government, and their property secured to them
that it ~~was~~ ^{was only to} stop the farther effusion of Innocent
Blood by the Savages under the influence of their
Governour, that made them an object of our attention
And no sooner had they heard this than Joy sparkled
in their Eyes and fell into Transports of Joy that really
surprised me; as soon as they were a little moderated
they told me that they had always been kept in the
dark as to the dispute between America & Britain
that they had never heard any thing before but what
was prejudicial and tended to incense them against
the Americans, that they were now convinced that
it was a Cause that it was a Cause that they ought
to espouse; that they should be happy of an
opportunity to convince me of their Zeal, and
think themselves the happiest People in the
World if they were united with the Americans
and beg'd that I would receive what said ~~what they~~
^(expressed) their real sentiments, in order to be more
Certain of their ~~sentiments~~ ^{to} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~order~~ ^{order} to be more
that an Oath of Fidelity was required from the Citizens
and to give them time to reflect on it, I should
not Administer it for a few days in the mean time
any of those that chose, was at liberty to leave
the Country with their Families, except two or

we ~~Marched~~ might be seen in many places for ~~many~~ ^{Several}
miles; nothing extraordinary happened during our
Route Excepting my guide loosing himself and not
being able, as we judged by his confusion of giving a
Just account of himself; It put the whole Troop in
the greatest Confusion. I never in my life felt such
a flow of Rage to be wandering in a Country where
every Nation of Indians could raise three, or four
times our Number, and a certain loss of our enterprise
by the Enemies getting timely notice. I could not bear
the thoughts of returning; in short every idea of the worst
verved to put me in that passion that I did not
matter for sometimes; but in a short time after our
circumstance had a better appearance for I was in a
moment determined to put the guide to Death if he
did not find his way that Evening; I told him his
doom, the poor fellow weared almost to Death out of his
wits, begged that I would stay a while where I was
and suffer him to go and make some discovery of
a Road that could not be far from us, which I would
not suffer for fear of not seeing him again, but ordered
him to lead on the party, that his Fate depended on
his success; after some little pause he begged that
I would not be hard with him, that he could find the
Path that Evening; He accordingly took his course
and in two hours got within his knowledge;

10
On the Evening of the 14th of July we got within three miles of the Town Saskatchewan, having a River of the same name to cross to the Town; After making ourselves ready for any thing that might happen, we marched after night to a Farm that was on the same side of the River about a mile above the Town, took the Family Prisoners, & found plenty of Boats to cross in; and in two hours transported ourselves to the other Shore with the greatest silence. I learned that they had some suspicion of being attacked and had made some preparations, keeping out Spies, but they making no discoveries, had got off their Guards. I immediately divided my little Army into two Divisions ordered one to surround the Town, with the other I broke into the Fort, secured the Governour M^r Hochblaw in 15 minutes had every Street secured, went thence through the Town ordering the People on the pain of Death to keep close to their Houses, which they observed and before day light had the whole disarmed; nothing could equal the Confusion these People seemed to be in, being taught to expect nothing but a savage treatment from the Americans, giving all for lost their Lives were all they could dare beg for, which they did with the greatest Servancy; they were willing to be Slaves to save their Families

I told them it did not suit me to give them an answer at that time; they repaired to their houses trembling as if they were led to Execution; my principal would not suffer me to distrust such a number of ~~the~~ People, except, through policy it was necessary; a little reflection convinced me that it was my Interest to Attach them to me, according to my first Plan; for the Town of Cohos & St. Vincents and the numerous Tribes of Indians attached to the French was yet so influence, for I was I speak to ~~the~~ ^{them} any other way; I went for all the Principal Men of the Town who came in as if to a Tribunal that was to determine their fate forever Curving their Fortune that they were not apprived of just time enough to have defended themselves. I told them that I was sorry to find that they ~~were~~ had been taught to harbour so base an opinion of the American and their Cause Cause. Explained the nature of the dispute to them in as clear a light as I was capable of, it was certain that they were a Conquered People and by the Gate of War was at my mercy and that our principal was to make those we Reduced free insted of enslaving them as they imagined, that if I could have variety of their Zeal and Attachment to the American Cause, ~~that~~ they

three particular Reasons, that they might repair to
their Families and conduct themselves as usual
without any dread. The Priest that had lately
come from Canada had made himself a little
acquainted with our disputes; Contrary to the principle
of his Brother in Canada) was rather prejudiced in
Favour of us. He asked if I would give him liberty
to perform his duty in his Church I told him that
I had nothing to do with Churches more than to
defend them from Insult. That by the laws of the
State his Religion had as great Privileges as
any other. This seem'd to compleat their happiness.
They returned to their Families, and in a few
Minutes the scene of mourning and distress, was
turned to an excess of Joy, nothing else seen or
heard - Adorning the Streets with Flowers &
Banners of different colours, compleating their
happiness by singing &c. In mean time I prepar'd
a Detachment on Horseback, under Capt. Bowman
to make a Descent on Cohos, about sixty miles up
the Country; the Inhabitants told me that one of
their Townsmen was enough to put me in
possession of that place, by carrying the good news
that the People would rejoice. however I did not
altogether chuse to trust them, dispatched the

Captain, Attended by a considerable number of the
Inhabitants who got into the middle of the Town
before they were discovered, the French Gentlemen
calling aloud to the People to submit to their
happier fate, which they did with very little
hesitation: A number of Indians being in Town,
on hearing of the Big Knives, immediately made
their Escape; In a few days the Inhabitants of
the Country took the Oath subscribed by Law,
and every Person appeared to be happy; Our friends
the Spaniards, doing every thing in their power
to convince me of their friendship. a Correspondance
immediately commenced between the Governour
and myself. Port St Vincent, a Town about the
size of Williamsburg was the next Object in my
view, As the whole was apprised of me, I was by
no means able to march against it (their
Governour a few months before going to Detroit)
I was resolved if possible to win their affection
which I thought myself in a fair way of doing
more fully to know the sentiments of the
Inhabitants about there; And to execute my
Plans I pretended to that I was about to send
an Express to the Falls of Ohio for a Body of
Troops to join me at a certain place in order

5
To attract it, it soon had the desired effect advocates
immediately appeared ~~appeared~~ among the people
in their behalf. Mr. Jeboth, the Priest, so fully
convinced me of his Attachment offered to under-
take to win that Town for me if I would permit
him and let a few of them go; they made no
doubt of gaining their friends at St. Vincente
to my Interest, the Priest told me he would go him-
self, and gave me to understand, that although he
had nothing to do with temporal business, that he
would give them such hints in the spiritual way
that would be very conducive to the business,
In a few days the Priest, Doct.^r Lafont, the Principal,
with a few others set out, and a Proclamation I
sent, for that purpose, and other instructions in
care of success. In a few weeks they returned with
intelligence agreeable to my wishes. I now found
myself in possession of the whole, in a Country
where I found I could do more real service than
I expected; which occasioned my situation to
be the more disagreeable as I wanted Men.
The greatest part of my Men was for returning,
as they were no longer ~~of~~ surrounded by numerous
Nations of Savages, whose minds had been long poisoned
by the English. It was with difficulty that I could

16
Supposed that Dignity that was necessary to give my orders
~~to the~~ that force that was necessary ~~to give~~
~~to the~~ People, but by great promises and promises I got
about one hundred of my Detachment Enlisted for eight
months, and to colour my staying with so few Troops
I made a Point of returning to the Falls, as though
I had sufficient confidence in the People, hoping that
the Inhabitants would remonstrate against my
leaving them, which they did in the warmest terms
proving the necessity of the Troops at that place
that they were afraid if I returned the English
would again possess the Country. Then, ^{Surprisingly} by their
request I agreed to stay with two Companies of
Troops, and that I hardly thought, as they alledge
that so many was necessary, but if more was wanted
I could get them at any time from the Falls, where
they were made so believe was a Considerable
Garrison. As soon as possible sent off those that
could not be got to stay, with M^r. Rockblanch, and
Letters to his Excellency letting him know my
situation and the necessity of Troops in the Country
Many of the French Lord of the service, the different
Companies soon got compleat. I stationed Capt
Bourman at Cohos, Capt. Helms Com^d at St. Vincents
Superintendent of the Downeast affairs being

partly well settled the Indian Department came
the next ^{the} object of my attention and of the greatest
importance, my sudden appearance in their
Country put them under the greatest consternation
they was generally at War against us, but the French
and Spaniards appearing so soon & so confused
them, they counsiled with the French Traders to
know what was best to be done, and of course was
advised to come and solicit for peace, and did not
doubt but we might be good Friends; it may appear
otherwise to you, but always thought we took the wrong
method of treating with Indians, and strove as soon
as possible to make myself acquainted with the
French and Spanish mode which must be
preferable to ours, otherwise they could not possibly
have such great influence among them; when
thoroughly acquainted with it exactly ^{coincided} ~~coincided~~
with my own idea, and resolved to follow that same
Rule as near as Circumstances would permit, the
Kashakias, Poreanar, Meehegameer immediately
treated for peace; I sent letters and a preacher by Capt
Helm to the Chief of the Kichebuer of Peankehaw
residing at Post St Vincents desiring them to lay down
their ^{Weapons} Tomahawk, and if they did not chuse it
to behave like Men and fight for the English as they
had done; but they would see their great Father

as they called him given to the Dogs is eat gave Warsh
~~by~~ language to supply the want of Men; well
knowing that it was a mistaken notion in many
that soft speeches was best for Indians; But if
they thought of giving their hands to the Bigknives
to give their Hearts also, and that I did not doubt
but after being acquainted, that they would find
that the Bigknives of better Principals than what
the bad Birds, the English had taught them to
believe. They received the Speeches from the
Capt. with another of his own, and after some
Consultation they resolved to take the Big-
Knives by the hand and came to a conclusion
of Peace. And said the Americans must be
Warriors and no deceivers, or they would never
have spoke as they did; that they liked such
Peoples, and that the English was Liers and they
would listen to them no longer; that by what
they had heard of the Bigknives, the Indians
had as great a right to fight the English as they
had, that they was convinced that it was the
truth. That they alluded to war, part of the
Speech that I had sent to them, explaining to
them the nature of the War, in the following
manner. That a great many years ago, our

10
"Our fathers lived in England, but the King oppressed
them in such a manner that they were obliged to
Cross the great Waters to get out of his way, But he
not being satisfied to loose so many Subjects
sent Governours and Soldiers among them to
make them obey his Laws, but told his Governours
to treat them well and ~~not~~ to take but little from
them until they grew populous, that then they
would be able to pay a great deal; By the good
treatment we got, we grew to be a great People
and flourished fast. The King then wrote to
his Governour & Officers that we had got rich
and numerous enough, that it was time to make
us pay tribute, that he did not care how much they
took, so as they left us enough to eat, and that
he had sent them a great many Soldiers to make
the Americans pay if they refused, that when they
had made the Americans do as they pleased, they
would then make the Indians pay likewise;
But for fear the Indians should find it out by
the Big Knives that the English intended to make
them also pay, & should get mad with the English
for their treatment to their Neighbours the Big-
Knives, that they, his Governours should make
us quarrel for. We bore their Targes for many

years, at last they were so hard that if we killed a
 Deer they would take the skin away and leave us
 only the Meat, and made us buy Blankets with
 Corn to feed their Soldiers with. By such usage
 we got poor and was obliged to go naked, and at
 last we complained. The King got mad and made
 his Soldiers kill some of our People and Burn some
 of our Villages. The Old Men then held a great Council
 and the Tomahawk very ^{madly} sharp and put it into the
 hand of the Young Men, told them to be strong &
 Strike the English as long as they could find one on
 this Island. They immediately struck and killed
 a great many of the English. The French King
 hearing of it sent to the Americans and told
 them to be strong and fight the English like
 Men; that if they wanted help or Tomahawks
 he would furnish them &c. &c.

This Speech had a greater effect than I could
 have imagined, and did more service than a
 Regiment of Men could have done.

It was with astonishment that viewed ^{the} number
 of Savages that soon flocked into the Town of Schoo
 to treat for peace, and to hear what the Big Knives
 had to say many of them 500 miles distant
 Chipoways, Ottoways, Petawatomes, Missisogies
 and a number of Quare, Sacks, Forces, Sages

Tauways, Mawonier and a number of other Nations
all living east of the Mississippi, and many of them
then at War against us. I must confess that I was
under some apprehension among ~~some apprehension~~
such a number of Savils, and it proved to be just
For the second or third night, a party of ~~prairie~~ of
others endeavoured to come by the guards into my
lodgings to Bear me off, but was happily
detected and made ~~prisoner~~ ^{prisoners} by the slacity
of the sergeant, The town took the alarm and was
immediately under arms which convinced the
Savages that the French were in our Interest.
I was determined to follow the principal that
I had had set out upon, let the consequence be
what it would. I immediately ordered the
chiefs to be put into Irons by the French Militia.
They insisted that it was only to see whether
the French would take part with the Americans
or not, that they had no ill Design. This treatment
of some of the greatest chiefs among them,
occasioned great confusion among the rest of
the Savages. The Prisoners, with great submit-
tion solicited to speak to me, but was refused.
They then made all the interest they possibly
could amongst the ~~rest~~ other Indians (who
was much at a loss what to do as there was
strong Guards through every Quarter of the

Town) to get to speak to me; but I told the whole
 that I believed they were a set of Villians, that
 they had joined the English, and they were
 welcome to continue in the Cause they had
 espoused; that I was a Man and a Warrior:
 that I did not care who was my Friend or Foe;
 and had none to say to them: Such conduct
 Alarmed the whole Town: but I was sensible that
 it would gain us no more Enemies than we had
 already, and if they after solicited for terms, that
 it would be more sincere, and probably a
 lasting good effect on the Indian Nations,
 distrust was visible in the Countenance of
 almost every Person during the latter part of
 the day. To show the Indians that I disregarded
 them, I remained in my Lodging in the Town
 about one hundred Yards from the Fort seem-
 ingly without a Guard, but kept about fifty
 Men conceild in a Parlour adjoining, and
 the Garrison under Arms; there was great
 Counciling among the Savages during the
 Night; but to make them have the greater
 idea of my Indifferency about them, I assembled
 a Number of Gentlemen & Ladies, and danced
 the whole Night. In the morning I summoned
 the different ^{Savages} to a grand Council, and the Chief

under Guard releas'd, and ~~was~~ invited to Council
that I might speak to ~~the whole~~ them in presence
of the whole. After the Common Cerimonies was
over, I produced a Bloody Belt of war, from
and spoke to them in the following manner
I told the Chief that was guilty, that I was
sensible their Nation was engaged in favour of the
English, and if they thought it right, I did not
blame them for it, and exhorted them to behave
like Men and support the Cause they had
undertaken; that I was sensible that the English
was weak and wanted help; that I would
take any advantage of them by Persuading their
Friends to desert them; that there were
but Americans, but would put them to death for
their late behaviour; That it convinced me of
their being my Enemies. But it was beneath
the Character of Americans to take such revenge
that they were at their Liberty to do as they please
But to behave like Men, and not do any
mischief until three days after they left the Town
that I should have them excoriated out of the
Village, and after that expiration of time, if they
did not choose to return and fight me, they might
find Americans enough by going farther,

24 76
That if they did not want their own Women and
Children massacred, they must leave off killing ours
and only fight Men under Arms, which was commen-
dable; that there was the War Belt, We should
soon see who which of us would make it the most
Bloody &c. Then told them that it was customary
among all Brave Men to treat their Enemies well
when assembled as we were, that I should give
them Provisions & Rum while they staid, but by
their behaviour I could not conceive that they
deserved that appellation, and I did not care how
soon they left me after that day. I observed that
their Countenances and attitude favoured my real
design: the whole looked like a parcel of Criminals.
The other Nations rose and made many submissive
Speeches excusing themselves for their conduct
in a very pretty manner and something noble in
their sentiments (their talk I inclose) they
alleged that they were persuaded to War by the
English, and made to harbour a wrong opinion
of the Americans, but they now believed them to
be Men and Warriors, and could wish to take them
by the hand as Brothers, that they did not speak
from their lips only, but that I should hereafter
find that they spoke from their Hearts, and that
they hoped I would pity their blindness and

25
their Women and Children; and also solicited for
their Friends that had been guilty of the late crime.
I told them that I had instructions from the Great
Man of the Big Knives not to ask Peace from
any People but to offer Peace and War, and let
them take their choice, except a few of the worst
Nation to whom I was to grant no Peace, for as
the English could fight us no longer he was
afraid our young Warriors would get rusty without
they could get somebody to fight &c I presented
them with a Peace & War Belt and told them to
take their choice, excepting those who had
been Imprisoned. they with a great deal of winning
Joy took the Belt of Peace. I told them I would
refer Smoking the Peace Pipe until I heard that
they had called in all their Warriors, and then
we would conclude the Treaty with all the
Ceremony necessary for so important Occasion
they immediately solicited for some Persons to go
with them to be witness of their Conduct, and
hoped that I would favour their Guilty Friends,
which I refused; and was pleas'd to see them set
tumbling, as Persons frightned at the apprehension
of the worst fate. Their speaker then rose and
made a most lamentable speech; such as I could

26
have wished for: Begging Mercy for their Women and
Children: For the French Gentlemen whom they put
the greatest confidence in had given them lessons that
favoured my purpose: I recommended it to them to go
to their Father the English, as he had told them that
he was strong perhaps he might help them as he had
promised; that they could blame no Person but themselves
when their Nation should be given with the English
to the Dogs to eat. When they had tried their Colloquence
to no purpose, they pitched on two young Men for to
be put to Death as an atonement for the next hoping
that would pacify me; It would have surpris'd
you to have seen how submissively those two young
Men presented themselves for Death, advancing into
the middle of the floor, sitting down by each other and
covering their heads with their Blankets so receive the
Tomahawk (Peace was what I wanted with them if
I got it on my own terms) but this stroke prejudiced me
in their favour, and for a few moments was so adulated
that I don't doubt but that I should without reflection
killed the worst Man that would have offered to have
offered to have hurt them: My wishes respecting this
Treaty was now compleat; And since I find no room
to blame myself for any omission in what follow'd
the Treaty: which time has already, proved the
good effects of it throughout the Illinois Country

Our Influence now began to spread among the Nations
even to the Border of the Lakes. I sent Agents in every
Quarter) I continued about five weeks in the Town of
Cohos; in which time I had settled a Peace with
ten or twelve ~~tribes~~ different Nations.

Being much fatigued I returned to Parkashias
leaving Major Bowman to act in which he did
himself much Honour. An intimacy had
commenced between Don Leybrace and myself
Lieut. Governour of Western Illinois and myself
he omitted nothing in his Power to prove his
Attachment to the Americans with such
openness as left no room for a doubt; as I was
never before in Compt. of any Spanish Genl.
I was much surpris'd in my expectations;
For instead of finding that reserve & thought
peculiar to that Nation, there was not the
least symptoms of it. Freedom almost to excess
gave the greatest Pleasure; at my return to
Parkashias I found every thing as well as I could
have expected. Having so far fixed matters as to
have amonnt's Leisure: which was taken up
with deeper Reflections than I ever before was
acquainted with. My situation and weakness
convinced me that more depended on my own
behaviour and conduct, than all the Troops

that I had far removed from the Body of my
Country: situated among French, Spaniards
and Numerous Bands of Savages on every
Quarter: Watching my Actions, ready to receive
impressions favourable or not so of us: which
might be hard to remove, and would perhaps
produce lasting good, or ill effects. It was now
that I saw my work was only began. maturely
examining every circumstance of my past Actions
Sizing such Resolutions, that in case of misfortune
or loss of Interest, it should be, for want of Judgment
only. Strict subordination among the Troops was
my first object, and soon effected it. It being a mat-
ter of the greatest consequence to Persons in our
situation. Our Troops being all raw and undi-
sciplined. You must be sensible of the pleasure I
felt when haranguing with them on Parade.
Telling them my Resolutions, and the necessity
of strict duty for our own preservation &c.
For them to return me for Answer, that it was
their zeal for their Country that induced them
to engage in the Service, that they were sensible
of their situation and Danger; that nothing could
conduce more to their safety and happiness, than
good order, which they would be to adhere to

and hoped that no Favour would be shewn them
that would neglect it. In a short time perhaps
no Garrison could boast of better order, or a
more valuable set of Men. By this time the
English party at Detroit, finding their influence
among the Savages abating, sent out messengers,
through the different Nations as far as they dare
venture, redoubled their Presents and insinuations
to little purpose; as I had a Number of Persons well
acquainted with the Indians, spread through the
whole that had treated with me, and they continu-
ally in and about Detroit for a considerable time.
One of the British Agents residing at Ouecaugh about
eighty Leagues above St. Vincents had our growing
Interest much, the Indians in that Quarter being
inclined to desert the British Interest, but in some
measure kept from their good intention by that
Person. I resolved if possible to take him off, and
sent a Detachment of Men from Kaskaskia under
the Command of Lieut. Bailey to join Capt. Helm at
St. Vincents and if possible surprise him; the Capt.
with about one hundred Men in number, part French
Militia and Indians, set out by water. The Agent
hearing of it collected a few Savages from the neigh-
bourhood that he could trust in order to give Battle

(The Indians in general Neutral) but a few days before the Captains arrival Mr. Selvon thought proper to make his Escape, leaving his Friendly Indians in the Fort, who being assembled in a Grand Council to determine what was best to be done, neglecting to shut the Gate or keep Sentinels (not supposing the Enemies to be so near) in the litch of their deliberation Capt. Helm, and ^{Bayly} six small Party entered the Fort and ordered them to surrender before they were apprized About forty in number being made Prisoners, the Capt. made a Valuable Treaty; Gave them their Liberty; ~~but~~ this stroke complicated our Interest on the Wabache & St. Vincents being a Post of great Importance, and not being able to spare many Men to Garrison it I took uncommon pains to intirely to Attach them to our Interest as well as the Inhabitants of the Illinois knowing no other kind of Government than what might be expected from the lust of Power, Pride and Avarice of the Officers Commanding in that Country whose will was a Law to the whole and certain destruction to disobey the most trifling Command. Nothing could have been more to my Advantage, as I could temper the Government as I pleased, and every new privilege appeared to them as Lush's Laurels to the American Cause

31
I by degrees laid aside every unnecessary Restriction
they Labour'd under. As I was convinced that
it was the mercenary views of their former
Governours that Established them, paying no
regard to the happiness of the People, and those
Customs strictly observed that was most
conducive to good order; ~~and~~ I made it a
Point to guard the ~~the~~ happiness of the People
and Tranquility of the ~~the~~ Inhabitants,
supposing that their happy change reaching their
Brethren and Countrymen on the Lakes and about
Detroit, would be paving my way to that Place; and
a good Effect on the Indians. I soon found it had the
desired Effect; for the greatest part of the French Gen.
and Traders among the Indians declared for us many
Letters of Congratulation, sent from Detroit to the Gen.
of the Illinois which gave me much Pleasure.
I let slip no opportunity, in Cultivating our growing
Interest in every Quarter where there was the least
appearance of a future advantage, and had as
great Success as I had any right to expect. Great
tranquility appeared in every countenance, being apprehensive
that the British Party at Detroit finding
it hard to regain their lost Interest among the

32
Savages would probably make a Desertion to the
Illinois if they found themselves Capitulated; for fear
of their finding out our Numbers (parties of Men
coming & going from Kentucky, and other places
Recruits &c.) I suffered no Parade except the Guards
for a considerable time, and took every other precau-
tion to keep every Person ignorant of our numbers
which was generally thought to be nearly double
what we really had. I found that my Ideas, respect-
ing the movement of the English just, having
certain Accounts by our Spies that Governour
Hamilton was on his march ^{from} Detroit with a
considerable Party, taking his Route up the
Miami River. In a few days receiving certain
intelligence that General M^r Antosh had left Pittsburg
for Detroit with a considerable Army. Knowing the
weakness of the Fortification of that ^{post} at that time
their numbers &c. I made no doubt of its being shortly
in our Possession. And that Governour Hamilton,
I envied that there was no Probability of his defending
the Fort, had marched with his whole Force to encourage
the Indians to Harass the General on his March; as
the only Probable Plan to stop him. Little
Thinking

Thinking that He had returned, and Mr. Hambleton
had the same design on me, that I supposed he had
at General McIntosh. It being near Christmas we
feared ourselves with the hopes of immediately hearing
from Detroit, and began to think that we had been
neglected in an express not being sent with the import-
ant news of its being ours. But a circumstance soon
happened that convinced us that our hopes was vain
A young Man at the Town of Cohos holding a correspon-
dence and sending Intelligence to Governour Hambleton
Party was Detected & Punished accordingly. By which
we Learned the return of General McIntosh, and Governour
Hambleton's Intentions on the Illinois, but ^{not} so fully
expressed in the latter as to reduce it to a certainty,
but supposing that in ~~some~~ case of its being true
they would make their first Descent on Kaskaskias
It being the strongest Garrison and head Quarters
I kept Spies on all the Roads to no purpose, Mr.
Hammonilton having the Advantage of Descending
the Cuback with eight hundred Men French,
Indians ^{and} a Regulars, took possession of Post St.
Vincent's on the 17th day of June ¹⁷⁶³ he had Parties
on the Road that took some of our Spies

34

were hard weather immediately setting in I was
at a loss to know what to do, many supposed that
he had quit his design and came no farther than
Orme. But no Intelligence from St. Vincent. I was
still under some doubt of his being there, except
the Com^d had kept back the Express on account of the
High waters. In this situation we remained for many
Days. I intended to evacuate the Garrison of
Coches in case of a Siege; But was anxious to have
a Conference with the Principal Inhabitants of
that I knew to be Zealous in our Interest, to give on
certain Slaves for their Conduct when in possession
of the English, if it should be the case; And set
out on the day of Janu^y 1779 for that Town
with an Intention of staying but a few days.

Mr. Hamilton in mean time had sent a party
of 40 Savages headed by white Men from St. Vincent
in order if possible to take me Prisoner, and gave
such Instructions for my treatment as did him
no dishonour. This Party lay concealed keeping a
small Party near the Road to me who passed; they
lay by a small Branch about three miles from
Nashkias, their being Snow on the Ground,

I had a Guard of about six or seven Men and a few Gent. in Chairs, one of them swampt within one hundred Yards of the Place where these Fellows lay hid, where we had to delay upwards of an hour. I believe nothing here saved me, but the Instruction they had, not to Kill me or the fear of being overpowered, not having an opportunity to Alarm the main Body which lay half a mile off without being discovered themselves. We arrived safe at the Town of Saptaurish about twelve miles above Naskarkias. The Gentlemen of Sadur immediately assembled at a Ball for our Entertainment; we spent the fore part of the night very agreeably; but about 12 O'clock there was a very sudden change by an Express arriving informing us that Governour Hamilton was within three miles of Naskarkias with eight hundred Men, and was determined to Attack the Fort that night; which was expected would be before the Express got to me, for it seems that those Fellows were discovered by a hunter and after missing their aim on me, discovered themselves to a Party of Negroes and told them a story as suited their purpose. I never saw greater confusion among a small Assembly than was at that time, every Person having their eyes on me, as if my word was to determine their good or evil Fate. It required but

a moment's hesitation in me to form my Resolution.
Communicated them to two of my Officers that accompany^d
me, which they approved of. I ordered our Horses saddled
in order if possible to get into the Fort before the Attack could
be made. ~~Some of~~ ^{Two of} ~~the~~ Company that had recovered their
Surprise so far as to enable them to speak, begged of me
not to attempt to Return, that the Town was certainly in
possession of the Enemy & the Fort warmly Attacked. Some
proposed conveying me to the Spanish Shore; some one
thing and some another. I thanked them for the Care
they had of my Person, and told them it was the Fate of
War. That a good Soldier never ought to be afraid of his
Life where there was a Probability of his doing service by
venturing of it which was my Case. That I hoped that
they would not let the news spoil our Division sooner
than was necessary, that we would divert ourselves
until our horses was ready, forced them to dance and
endeavoured to appear as unconcerned as if no such
thing was in Adjutition. This Conduct inspired
the Young Men in such a manner that many of
them was getting their Horses to Share Fate with
me. But chusing to loose no time, as soon as I could
write a few lines on the back of my Letter to Captain
Bowman at Cohos, I set out for Kaskaskias: each
Man a Blanket, that in case the Fort was attacked

2 We were to wrap ourselves in them, Call in with
the Enemies fire at the Fort until we had an oppor-
tunity of getting so near as to give the proper signals,
knowing that we should be let in. But on our Arri-
val we found every thing as calm as we could
expect. The weather being bad, it was then thought
the Attack would not commence until it cleared up.
But no Person seem'd to doubt of the Enemies
being at hand, and from many circumstances
I could not but suppose it was the case, ~~and~~ that
they deferd the Attack for some time in order to
give us time to Retreat; which I supposed they would
rather chuse by their proceedings; But I was determin'd
that they should be disappointed if that was their
wishes. There was no time lost during the Night putting
every thing in as good order as possible. The Priest, of
all Men the most afraid of Mr. Hamilton, he was
in the greatest consternation, ~~and~~ determin'd to
act agreeable to my Instruction. I found by his
consternation that he was sure the Fort would be
taken, Except Reinforced by the Garrison at Cohos
which I did not chuse, ^{to let him know would be the case} although I knew him to
be a zealous Friend. I pretended that I wanted him
to go to the Spanish side with Publick Paper and
Money. The Proposition pleas'd him well, he

immediately started & getting into an Island the
 Ice passing so thick down the Mississippi, that he
 was obliged to encamp three days in the most obscure
 part of the Island with only a servant to attend him
 I spent many serious reflections during the night.
 The Inhabitants had always appeared to be attached
 to us: but I was convinced that I should in the morning
 have a sufficient trial of their fidelity. (several of their
 Young Men had turned into the Fort in order to
 defend it) but sensible at the same time that in case
 they took arms to defend the Town that the whole
 would probably be lost, as I should be obliged to give
 the Enemy Battle in the Commons. I would have
 chose to have had those without families to reinforce
 the Garrison, and the rest to have lain Neuter
 I resolved to burn part of the Town that was near the
 Fort and guard it, as I knew the greatest service we
 possibly could do, was to sell the Fort as Dear as poss-
 ible; there being no probability of escaping after
 Attack, or expectation of Reinforcement, as we were
 too far detached from the Body of our Country. The
 only probable chance of safety was Capt. Bowman's
 joining me which I expected the next evening down
 the Mississippi, to defend ourselves until Mr. Hamilton's
 Indians got tired and returned in four or five
 weeks

Weeks which I expected the greatest Part of them ^{would do} had not that Success that they expected. I had no occasion to consult the Garrison in any Revolution I should see upon as I knew that they were all as spirited as I could wish them to be, and took pains to make ~~them~~ ^{them} as desperate as possible. If you rightly consider our Situation & Circumstances, you must conceive it to be desperate; in the morning the first thing I did was to assemble all the Inhabitants in order to know their Resolutions; as they had been the night counselling with each other they expected some orders I should give which I did not choose to do; at the Assembly I asked them what they thought of doing, whether they would endeavour to defend the Town or not; if they did I would Quit the Fort leaving a small Guard, and lead them with the Troops, and if the Enemy lay until the weather broke, we might probably in the mean time discover their Camp and get some advantage of them. They appeared to be in great confusion, and all my Fear was, that they would agree to defend themselves, and if the Enemy was as numerous as was expected the whole would be lost. But I need not have been afraid uneasy about that, for they had so ^{mutually} ~~mutually~~ studied their own Interest to think of fighting, which they certainly would have done if I had

only as many Troops as would have given any
 Probability of success. They displayed their situation
 in such a manner as was really moving and with great
 truth. But denied to Act either on one side or the other;
 And begged that I would believe them to be in the American
 Interest. But my whole force joined with them would
 make but a poor figure against so considerable a Party
 and gave hints that they could wish us to take Spanish
 Protection as they could not conceive we could keep
 possession a single day as the Enemy would immediately
 set the adjacent Houses on fire which would give the
 Fort (not knowing that I intended to Burn them myself
 as soon as the wind shifted.) I very seldom found but
 I could govern my temper at pleasure. But this declaration
 of theirs and some other circumstances put me in a most
 violent Rage, and as soon as I could curb my Passion
 gave a Lecture suitable for a set of traitors (although
 I could not conceive the whole of them to be such). I ordered
 them out of the Garrison, and told them that I no longer
 thought they deserved Favour from me, that I consequent-
 ly must conceive them to be my secret Enemies and
 should treat them as such; They endeavoured to soothe
 me into pity, but to have listened to them would have
 destroyed my intention. I determined to make myself
 appear ^{to} them as desperate as possible that it might
 have a Greater effect on the Enemy (they asked me

41
So if you an order for all the Provision in the Town to be
brought into the Fort immediately, by which I was convinced
that it was their devise that I should be able to stand
the Siege as long as possible, and only wanted an excuse
to the Person they expected every moment to be their
Master (for making the supplies) I told them that
I would have all the Provisions and then Burn the Town
to the Enemies hand; that they might vend the Provision
if they chose it, and vend them out of the Fort and imme-
diately had fire set to come out Howes; Never was a set
of People in more distress, their Town set on fire by those
that they wished to be in Friendship with; at the same
time surrounded by the Savages, as they expected. ~~That~~
^{from a story} they had but little else but destruction to expect, the
Howes being covered with snow, the fire had no
effect only on those it was set to, the Inhabitants looking
on without daring to say a word: I told them that I
intended to set fire to all those that had much Provis-
ion for fear of the Enemies getting it: They were not in so
great a Leathery, but they took the hint and before night
they brought in six months Provisions of all sorts, by
which they were in hopes to come on better Terms: but a
fresh Circumstance alarmed them; One of the
Inhabitants

Inhabitants. Being into the Field met a Man that
 told him he saw a Party of the Enemy going on the Island
 to take the Priest, he returning to Town met the Priest's
 Brother in Law and told him what he had heard, and begged
 of him not to tell me of it the Poor fellow half dead with
 about his Brother, made all haste and told me. I took
 his Evidence, went for the Citizen who could not deny it.
 Immediately ordered him hanged. The Town took the
 Alarm hastened about the walls of the Fort, if possible to
 save their Friend. The Poor fellow given up to the
 Soldiers who dragged him to the place of Execution, each
 striving to be foremost in the Execution as if they thirsted
 after Blood: some was for Tomahawking him, some
 for hanging & others for burning: they got to quarrelling
 about it, which at last saved his life; the Inhabitants
 having time to supplicate for him in his favour; but
 nothing would have saved his life but the appearance
 of his Wife and seven small Children, which sight
 was too moving not to have granted them the life of
 their Parent on terms that put it out of his power to
 do any damage to me. The weather clearing away
 Capt. Bowman Arrived the following day with his
 own and a Comp^y. of Volunteers from Cohos; we
 now began to make a tolerable appearance and seem'd
 to defy the Enemy: and sent out Spies on every

was in possession of the English; and consequently
we might wholly expect an Attack though no danger
at present, and ^{had} some time to make preparation for
what we were certain of. I had reason to expect a
Reinforcement on the presumption that Government
ordered one on the Receipt of my First Letter; still
encouraged each other and hoped for the best: But
suffered more uneasiness than when I was certain
of an immediate Attack, as I had more time to
reflect: the Result of which was that the Illinois
in a few months would be in possession of the English
except the Garrison which I knew would not
be disposed to surrender without the greatest distress
I sent off the Howemen to St. Vincents to take a
Prisoner by which we might get intelligence, but
found it impracticable on account of the high
waters, ^{but} in the night of our anxiety on the evening of
the 29th of Janry. 1779 M^o Vague a Spanish
Merchant Arrived from St. Vincents, and was there
the time of its being taken, and gave me every
Intelligence that I could wish to have. Governour
Hamiltons Party consisted of about eight hundred
when he took possession of that Post, on the 17th
day of december past: Sending the Carson too far

45
spent for his intention against Kaskaskias
had sent nearly the whole of his Indians out in
different Parties to War: But to embody as soon
as the weather would Permit and complete his
design: He had also sent messengers to the south-
-ern Indians, five hundred of whom he expected
to join him, only eighty Troops in Garrison (our
Situation still appeared desperate, it was at this
moment I would have bound my self seven years
a Slave, to have had five hundred Troops) I saw
the only probability of our maintaining the Country was
to take the advantage of his present weakness, per-
haps we might be fortunate: I considered the
Inclemency of the season, the badness of the
Roads &c. as an advantage to us, as they would be
more off their Guard on all Quarters. I collected the
Officers, told them the probability I thought there
was of turning the scale in our Favour: I found
it the sentiment of every one of them and eager
for it. Our Plans immediately concluded on; and went
An Express to Cahoes for the Return of Capt. McCarty &
his Volunteers, and set about the necessary preparations
in order to transport my Artillery Stores &c.

46
I had a Large Boat prepared and rigged mounting
two four pounders ^{and 10 large Swivel} manned with a fire Company
Commanded by Lieut. Rogers. She set out in the evening
of the 4th of Jan^y. with orders to force her way if possible
within ten Leagues of St. Vincents and lay until further
Orders. This Vessel when compleat was much admir'd
by the Inhabitants as no such thing had been seen in
the Country before. I had great Expectations from her
I conducted myself ~~before~~ ^{as} I march'd as though I was
sure of taking Mr. Hamilton, instructed my Offi-
cers to observe the same Rule. In a day or two the
Country seem'd to believe it, many anxious to Retri-
eve their Characters turn'd out, the Ladies began
also to be spirited and interest themselves in the
Expedition, which had great Effect on the Young men
By the 4th day of Jan^y. I got every thing compleat
and on the 5th. I march'd being joined by two
Volunteer Comps^y of the Principal Young Men of
the Illinois Commanded by Capt. McCarty & James
Charlaville. Those of the Troops was Capt^{ns} Bowman
& William Worthingtons of the Light Horse. we were
Conducted out of the Town by the Inhabitants and
Mr. Deboth the Priest, who after a very suitable

Discourse to the purpose, gave us all Absolution
And we set out on a ^{bold} Pilgrim hope indeed; For our whole
Party with the Boats Crew consisted of only a little
upwards of two hundred. I cannot account for it
but I still had inward assurances of success; and
never could when weighing every Circumstance
doubt it: But I had some secret checks. We had no
~~less~~ a Boat before us of two hundred and ^{Forty} ~~Eighty~~ miles
in length, through, I suppose, ^{one of} the most beautiful
Country in the world; but at this time in many
parts flowing with water and spreading bad
marching. my greatest care was to divert
them then as much as possible in order to
keep up their spirits; the first obstruction
of any consequence that hapned to me I
met with ^{was on} ~~at~~ the 13th. Arriving at the
two little Wabashers although three miles
asunder they now make but one, the flow'd water
between them being at least three feet deep, and in
many places four: Being near five miles to the
opposite Hills, the shallowest place, except about one
hundred yards was three feet ~~deep~~. This would have
~~stoped~~ been enough to have stoped any set of men
that was not in the same temper that we was

48
But in three days we contrived to cross, by building a
large Canoe, Ferried across the two Channels, the rest
of the way we waded; Building scaffolds at each to
load our Baggage on until the Snow ^{had} crossed to ~~the~~
take them, it rained nearly a third of our March; but
we never halted for it; In the evening of the 27th we
got to the low Lands of the River Umbagog which we found
deep in water, it being nine miles to St. Vincent
which stood on the East side of the Wabache and
every foot of the way covered with deep water; we
Marched down ~~the~~ the little River in order
to gain the Banks of the main ~~River~~ which we did
in about three Leagues, made a small Canoe and
sent an Express to meet the Boat and heavy it up.
From the spot we now lay on was about ten miles to
Town, and every foot of the way put together that
was not three feet and upwards under water would
not have made the length of two miles and half
and not a mouthful of Provision; to have waited for our
Boat, if possible to avoid it, would have been Impolitic.
If I was sensible that you would let no Person see
this relation I would give you a detail of our suffering
for four days in crossing those waters, and the
manner it was done; as I am sure that you would
credit it. but it is too incredible for any Person

49
to believe except those that are as well acquainted
with me as you are, or had experienced something
similar to it I hope you will excuse me until I have
the pleasure of seeing you personally. But soon
inexpressible Joy in the evening of the 23^d we got
safe on Terra Firma within half a League of the
Fort, covered by a small Grove of Trees had a
full view of the wished for spot (I should have
crossed at a greater distance from the Town but
the White River coming in just below us we
were afraid of getting too near it) we had
already taken some Prisoners that was coming
from the Town: Laying in this Grove some time
to dry our Clothes by the Sun we took another
Prisoner known to be a Friend by which we got
all the Intelligence we wished for: but would
not suffer him to see our troops except a few.
A thousand Ideas I flushed in my Head at this moment
I found that Gov^r Hornetton was able to defend
himself for a considerable time, but knew that he
was not able to turn out of the Fort; that if the Siege
continued long a Superior number might come
against us, as I knew there was a Party of English
not far above in the River: that if they found out
our Numbers might raise the disaffected

50

Savages and Cannibals. I resolved to appear as
Daring as possible, that the Enemy might conceive
by our Behaviour that we were very numerous and
probably discourage them. I immediately wrote to
the Inhabitants in general. Informing them where
I was and what I determined to do desiring the
Friends to the State to keep close in their Houses
those in the British Interest to repair to the Fort
and fight for their King; otherwise there should
be no mercy shewn them &c &c Sending the
Compliments of several Officers that was known to be
expected to reinforce me, to several Gentlemen of the
Town: I dispatched the Prisoner off with this letter
waiting until near sunset, giving him time to get
near the Town before we marched. As it was an
open Plain from the Wood that covered us; I march'd
time enough to be seen from the Town before dark
but taking advantage of the Land, disposed the
lines in such a manner that nothing but the
Bavilions could be seen, having as many of them
as would be sufficient for a Thousand Men,
which was observed by the Inhabitants, who had
just receiv'd my letter counted the different
Colours and Judged of our number accordingly
but

5 But I was careful to give them no opportunity of
seeing our troops before dark, which it would be before
we could arrive. The Houses obstructed the Posts
observing us and were not Allurmed as I expected
by many of the Inhabitants: I detached ^{some} Party to
Attack the Fort at a certain Signal, and took
possession of the strongest Posts of the Town with
the main Body. The Garrison had so little suspicion
of what was to happen that they did not believe the
Firing was from ^{an} the Enemy, until a Man was
Wounded through the Posts, (which hapned the
third or fourth shot) Expecting it to be some want
Indians. The firing commened on both sides
very warm and a second Division joined the first
A considerable number of British Indians made
their escape out of Town. The Kickpous and Pean
Keshaws to the amount of about one hundred that
was in Town immediately Armed themselves in
our favour and Marched to attack the Fort. I
thanked their Chief for his intended service, told
him the All consequence of our people being murthered
in the dark, that they might lay in their Quarters
until light. he approved of it and went off his Hook
appeared to be much civated himself and staid
with me giving all the Information he could.

I know

(I knew him to be a friend.) The Artillery from the Fort played briskly but did no execution. The Garrison was intirely surrounded within eighty and a hundred yards behind Houses, Palings, and Ditches &c. &c. Never was a heavier firing kept up between on both sides for eighteen Hours with so little damage done. In a few hours I found my Prize sure, Certain of taking every Man that I could have wished for, being the whole of those that incited the Indians to War: all my past sufferings vanished: never was a Man more happy. It wanted no encouragement from any Officer to inflame our Troops with a Martial Spirit. The knowledge of the Person they attacked and the thoughts of their massacred friends was sufficient. I knew that I could not afford to loose Men, and took the greatest care of them that I possibly could: at the same time encouraged them to be daring, but prudent. every place near the Fort that could cover them was crowded, and a very heavy firing during the Night. having flung up a considerable Intrenchment before the gate where I intended to plant my Artillery when Arrived. I had learnt that one Masonville had arived that ~~had~~ ^{was} returning with two prisoners taken on the Ohio discovering some

Design of us, supposed to be spies from Kentucky
immediately on his arrival Capt Semote went out to
intercept them; being out on our arrival could not
gain the Fort; in attempting several of his men
was made Prisoners, himself and party hovering
round the Town; I was convinced that they would
make off to the Indians at day break if they could
not join their Friends; finding all endeavour
fruitless to take him I withdrew the Troops a little
before from the Garrison in order to give him an
opportunity to get in which he did much to his
Credit and my satisfaction: as I would rather
~~they~~^{it} should receive that Reinforcement, than they
should be at Large among the Savages. The firing
again commenced, a number of the Inhabitants
Joining the Troops & behaved exceedingly well in
General; knowing of the Prisoners lately taken
and by the diversion I had of them I was sure
of there being the Express from Williamsburg
(but was mistaken) so said the papers and
Letters; about eight o'clock in the morning I
ordered the firing to cease and sent a Flag into
the Garrison with a hard Bill recommended
Mr. Hamilton to surrender his Garrison &
swore threats if he should destroy any Letters &c

52
He return'd an An^r to this purpose; that the
Garrison was not dispos'd to be aw'd into
any thing unbecoming British Soldiers: the
Attack was Renew'd with greater Vigour than
ever and continued for about two hours, I was
determined to listen to no Terms whatever until
I was in Possession of the Fort; and only meant to
keep them in Action with part of my Troops,
while I was making necessary preparations, with
the other (neglected calling on any of the Inhabitants
for Assistants although they wished for it) A Flag
appear'd from the Fort with a Proposition from
M^r. Hamilton for three days Cessation - A desire
of a Conference with me immediately, that if I
should make any difficulty of coming into the
Fort, he would meet me at the Gate: But Gov^t had
no notion of listening to any thing he had to say as
I could only consider himself & Officers as
Murderers, ~~and~~ And intended to treat them as
such: but after ~~some~~ ^{some} deliberation I went M^r.
Hamilton my Compliments, and beg'd leave
to inform ~~M^r. Hamilton~~ him that I should agree
to no other terms than his surrendering himself
and Garrison Prisoners at discretion; but if he
was desirous of a Conference with me I
would

5
would meet him at the Church. We accordingly
met, he offered to surrender but we could not agree
upon terms. He received such treatment on this
Conference as a Man of his known Barbarity deserved.
I would not come upon terms with him, recommend
to him to defend himself with spirit and Bravery, that
it was the only thing that would induce me to treat
him and his Garrison with Lenity in case
I stormed it which he might expect. He asked
me what more ^{could} I require than he had the offer
he had already made. I told him (which was
nearly the truth) that I wanted a sufficient excuse
to put all the Indians & partisans to death, as the
greatest part of those Villians was then with him:
all his propositions was refused: he asked me if nothing
would do but fighting... I knew of nothing else: he
then begged me to stay until he should return to the
Garrison and consult his Officers: being indifferent
about him and wanted a few moments ^{for my Troops} to refresh
themselves I told him that the firing should ~~not~~
not commence until such an hour, that during that
time he was at Liberty to pass with safety. Some time
before a Party of Warriors sent by Mr. Hamilton against
Kentucky, had taken two Prisoners, was discovered by
the Kitchewis who gave information of them. A Party
was

56
was immediately Detached to meet them which
happened in the Commons: they conceived our Troops
to be a party sent by M^r. Hamilton to conduct them
in; an hour commonly paid them. I was highly
pleas'd to see each party hooping, hollowing and
striking each others Breasts as they approached
~~each other~~ in the open fields each vied to try to
outdo the other in the greatest signs of Joy; the
Poor Devils never discover'd their mistake until it
was too late for many of them to escape; Six of them
was made Prisoners, two of them Scalped and the
rest so wounded as we afterwards learnt, but one
Lived. I had now a fair opportunity of making
an impression on the Indians that I could have
wished for; that of convincing them that Governour
Hamilton could not give them that protection that
he had made them to believe he could. in some
measure to incense the Indians against him for
not exerting himself to save their Friends. Ordered
the Prisoners to be Tomahawked in the Face of the
Garrison: It had the effect that I expected: instead
of making their Friends insatiate against us, they
upbraided the English Parties in not trying to save
their Friends and gave them to understand that
they

57 They believed them to be lies and no Warriors -
A remarkable Circumstance hapned that I think
worthy our notice: An Old French Gent. of the name
of Le Roy, Lieut. of Capt. McCarty's Volunteers
from Cohos had but one Son who headed these
Indians and was made Prisoner. The Question was
put whether the White Man should be saved. I ordered
them to put him to Death, through Indignation,
which did not extend to the Savages; ^{for} fear he would
make his escape, his Father drew his Sword and
stood by him in order to Run him through in case
he should stir; being painted could not know him.
The Wretch on seeing the Executioners Tomahawk
raised to give the fatal Stroke, raised his eyes
and making his last Address to heaven; cried
out Save me. The Father knew his Son's voice
you may easily guess of the of the adyctation and
behaviour of these two Persons coming to the knowledge
of each other at so critical a moment. I had so little
mercy for such Murderers, and so valuable an
opportunity for an Example; knowing there would
be the greatest sollicitations made to save him, that
I immediately absconded myself: but by the warm
est sollicitations from his Father who had behaved
so exceedingly well in our Service; and some of
the Officers, I granted his Life on certain conditions

Mr. Hamilton and myself again met: he produced certain Articles which was refused; but towards the close of the Evening I sent him the following Articles

1. That Lieut. Governour Hamilton engages to deliver up to Col. Clark, Fort Sachville as it is at present with all the Stores &c.
2. The Garrison are to deliver themselves up Prisoners of War and March out with their Arms and Accoutrements &c &c.
3. The Garrison to be delivered up tomorrow at ten O'clock
4. Three days time be allowed the Garrison to settle their Accounts with the Traders and Inhabitants of this Place
5. The Officers of the Garrison to be allowed their necessary Baggage &c &c.

Which was agreed to and fulfilled the next day knowing that Governour Hamilton had sent a party of Men up the Ouabach to come for Stores that he had left there which must be on the return; I waited about twelve hours for the Arrival of the Galley to Intercept them; but fearing their getting Intelligence, dispatched Capt. Helms with a party in Armed Boats who

5th I suppressed and made Prisoners of Liberty, among
which was Dejeane, Grand Judge of Detroit with
a large Packet from Detroit, and seven Boats
load of Provisions, Indian Goods &c. Never was a
Person more mortified than I was at this time, to
see so fair an opportunity to push a Victory ^{at Detroit}, lost for
want of a few Men; knowing that they would
immediately make greater Preparations expect-
ing me. The Galley had taken up on her pass-
age the Express from Williamsburg with letters from
his Excellency. Having at once all the intelligence
I could wish for from both sides. I was better able to
fix my future Plans of operation, ^{against the Enemy} By his Excellen-
cies letter I might expect to have a complete
Battallion in a few months, the Militia of the
Illinois I knew would turn out, did not doubt of
getting two or three hundred Men from Kentucky
Consequently, put the matter out of doubt.
I contented myself on that Preumption having
almost as many Prisoners as I had Men.
Finding the necessity of getting rid of many of the
Prisoners, not being able to guard them; not
doubting but my good treatment to the Volunteers
Inhabitants of Detroit would promote my Interest
there I discharged the greatest Part of them that
had

had not been with Indian Parties, on their taking
 the Oath of Neutrality. They went off huzzaying for the
 Congress and declared though they could not fight
 against the Americans they would for them (as I
 after this had spies constant to and from Detroit
 I learnt they answered every purpose that I could have wished
 for, by prejudicing their friends in favour of America.

So certain was the Inhabitants of that Post, that they
 of my Marching immediately against it, that they
 made Provision for me in defiance of the Garrison
 (Many of them has paid dear for it since)

I dispatched off Capt. Williams and Compy with
 Governour Hamilton, his Principal Officers, and a
 few Soldiers to the Falls of Ohio, to be sent to Williams-
 burg, and in a few days sent my Letters to the Governour.

Having matters a little settled, the Indian Department
 became the next Object. I knew that Mr. Hamilton
 had endeavoured to make them believe that we
 intended at last to take all their Lands from them
 and that in case of success we should ~~show~~ show
 no greater Mercy for those that did not join him
 than those that did. I endeavoured to make
 myself acquainted the Arguments he used: And
 calling together the Neighbouring Nations,
 Frankishaw

Rankinshaw, Kishpox, & others that would not listen
to him I endeavour'd to undeceive them; I made a
very long speech to them in the Indian manner, & ex-
told them to the Skies for their Manly behaviour
and fidelity; told them that we were so far from
having any design on their Lands, that I looked
upon it that we were then on their Land where the
the Fort stood, that we claimed no Land in their
Country; that the first Man that offered to take
their Lands by Violence must strike the tom^{be}
in my head; that it was only necessary that I
should be in their Country during the War and
keep a Fort in it to drive the English, who had a
design against all People; after that I might go
to some place where I could get Land to support
me: The Treaty was concluded to the satisfaction of
both parties; they were much pleas'd at what they
heard and begged me the next day to favour them
the next day with my Compt^y at a Council of their
own I accordingly attended; greatest part of the
time spent in Ceremony; they at last told me
that they had been meditating on what I had
said the day before: that all the Nations would be
rejoic'd to have me always in their Country as
their

greatest Father and Protector. And as I had said
I would claim no Land in their Country, they were
determined that they would not lose me on that
Account: and Resolved to give me a Piece, but larger
than they had given to all the French at that
Village, and laying down what they would wish
me to do &c. I was well pleased at their offer
as I had then an opportunity to deny the expec-
tation, & further convince them that we did not
want their Land; they appear'd dejected at my
Refusal; I waded the discourse upon other
Subjects: Recommended a Frolick to them that night
as the Sky was clearer than ever; gave them a Quantity
of Taffy and Provisions to make merry on and left
them. In a few days some Chipowags and others
that had been with Mr. Hamilton, came in and
begged me to excuse their Blindness and take them
into Favour; after the warmest Solicitations for
Mercy, I told them that the Big Knives was mer-
ciful which proved them to be Warriors; that I should
send Belts and a Speech to all the Nations; that
they after hearing of it might do as they pleased
but must blame themselves for future misfortunes
and dispatched them. Nothing destroys your Interest
among

3
among the Savages as soon as wavering sentiments
or speeches that shew the least ^{fear} ~~timidity~~. I consequently
had observed one steady line of conduct among them:
Mr. Hamilton, who was almost seized among them
being captured by me, it was a sufficient confirmation
to the Indians of every thing I had formerly said to
them and gave the greatest weight to the speeches
I intended to send to send them: expecting that I
should shortly be able to fulfill my threats with
a Body of troops sufficient to penetrate into any part
of their Country: and by reducing Detroit being them
to my feet, I sent the following speech to the
different Tribes near the Lakes that was at war with
us. to wit,

To the Warriors of the different Nations,

Men and Warriors, it is a long time since the
Big Knives sent Belts of peace among You soliciting
of You not to listen to the bad talks and deceit of the
English as it would at some future day tend to the
Destruction of Your Nations. You would not listen,
but joined the English against the Big Knives and
spilt much Blood of Women & Children. The
Big Knives then resolved to shew no mercy to any
People that hereafter would refuse the Belt of

Peace which should be offered, at the same time ⁶⁴
One for War; & You remember last summer a
great many People took me by the hand, but a few
kept back their Hearts. I also sent Belts of Peace and
War among the Nations to take their choice. some
took the Peace Belt; others still listened to their
great Father (as they call him) at Detroit, and joined
him to come to War against me. The Big Knives are
Warriors and look on the English as old Women and
all those that join him, and are ashamed when they
fight them because they are no Men.

I now send two Belts to all the Nations, one for
Peace and the other for War. The one that is for War
has your great English Fathers Scalp tied to it, and
made red with his Blood; all you that call your-
selves his Children, make your Hatchets sharp &
come out and revenge his Blood on the Big Knives
fight like Men that the Big Knives may not be
ashamed when they fight you; that the old Women
may not tell us that we only fought squaws. Many
of you is for taking the Belt of Peace, send the
Bloody Belt back to me that I may know who to
take by the hand as Brothers. For you may be
assured that no peace for the future will be granted
to those that do not lay down their Arms immediately.

etc

3
As as you will I dont care whether you are for Peace
or War; as I glory in War and want Enemies to fight
us, the English cant fight us any longer and are
become like Young Children begging the Big Knives
for money and a little Bread to eat; this is the last
Speech you may ever expect from the Big Knives,
the next thing will be the Tomahawk. And you
may expect in four Moons to see your Women &
Children given to the Dogs to eat, while those
Nations that have kept their words with me will
Flourish and grow like the Willow Trees on the
River Banks under the care and nourishment
of their Father the Big Knives.

In a few weeks great Numbers came in to St. Vincents
and treated for Peace being laughed at by those
that had strictly kept their adhear'd to their former
Treaty with me. After giving every Department
so as to promise future advantage sending
Letters to the County Lieut. of Kentucky soliciting
him to make some preparatory strokes towards
Joining me when call'd on by with all the force
he could raise, leaving a sufficient Garrison
on the 20th of march I set out for Harrodsburg
by Water with a Guard of eighty Men, spending
much time in making some observation at
different places; consequently arrive too late to
have

have kindred a War that commenced between the few Delawares residing in this part of the World and the Inhabitants; a few of them that had joined the British Party knowing what had hapned went to Naskavias, as was supposed to compromise matters; but getting drunk with some loose Young Fellows gave some threats on each side; one of the Indians snaping a gun at a Womans Breast two of them was immediately killed the rest pursued by the Townsmen some distance down the River one killed and some others wounded. The War was carried pretty equal on both sides for several Months; but they at last thought proper to solicit a Peace. During my absence Capt. Robert George Commandt. the Compt. formerly Capt. Willings; had Arrived from Orleans taking charge of the Garrison which was a considerable Reinforcement to our little Party. Every thing having the Appearance of Tranquility, I resolv'd to spend a few weeks in Diversion which I had not done since my Arrival in the Illinois, but found it impossible when I had any matter of importance in view, the Reduction of Detroit was always uppermost in my mind, not from a motive of Applause; but from the desire I had of Establishing a profound Peace on our Frontiers, being so well acquainted with its situation, strength and Influence; that in case I was not disappointed in Number of Troops, I expected

even Accounted Detroit my own, Receiving letters
from Col. Bowman at Kentucky informing me that
I might expect him to Reinforce me with ~~three~~ ^{four} hundred
Men when ever I should call on him; ^{at St. Leger's power} at the same
time receiving Intelligence from Col. Montgomery
I now thought my success reduced to a certainty, imme-
diately set about making Provision for the Expedition
to be ready against the Arrival of the Troops to give
the Enemy as little time as possible to complete
the new Fortifications I knew they were then about
I sent an Express to Col. Bowman desiring him to
Join me on the 20th. of June at St. Vincents with
all the Force he possibly could raise agreeable to his
Letters to me; sent out Capt. ~~Langlot~~ among the differ-
ent Nations of Indians to receive their Congratulations
on our late Success receive the submission of those that
Resolved to Desert the English &c. as well as to get fresh
news Intelligence from Detroit. The Civil Department
In the Illinois had heretofore rob'd me of too much of
my time that ought to be spent in Military reflection
I was now likely to be Relieved by Col. In. Todd
appointed by Government for that Purpose; I was
anxious for his Arrival & happy in his appointment
as the ~~French~~ ^{English} intimacy and Friendship subsisted
between us; and on the day of my had the
Pleasure of seeing him safely Landed at Kaskaskias

63

The Joy of every Person: I now saw myself happily
rid of a piece of trouble that I had no delight in
~~in a few days~~
~~at the~~ Col: Montgomerie arrived,
to my Mortification, found that he had not half the
Men that I expected; immediately receiving a letter
from Col: Bowman with Greek Assurance of a
considerable Reinforcement. The Officers in Genl.
being Anxious for the Expedition, Resolved to
Proceed according to appointment; and if not
deceived by the Kentuckians I should still be able
to complete my design, as I only wanted Men sufficient
to make me appear Respectable in Passing through
the Savages by which means I could on the March
Command those friendly at my ease, and defy my
Enemies. Three hundred Men being at this time
sufficient to Reduce the Garrison of Detroit, as the
new Works was not complete, nor could not be according
to the Plan before my Arrival. The Gentlemen of Detroit
not being Idle (having sufficient reason to be convinced,
that they were in no danger from the Dep: of Pittsburg
always suspicious of my Attracting them, sensible
of my growing Interest among the Savages.
In order to give themselves more time to Fortify by ma-
king some diversion on the Illinois) engaged a considera-
ble number of their Savages to make an Attempt on
F.

St. Vincent's; those Indians that had declared for
the American Interest, in order to shew their Zeal went
word to them that if they had a mind to fight the Bosto-
nians at St. Vincent's; they ~~must~~ must first cut their
way through them, as they were Big Knives too. This
effectually stop't their operation, knowing that the
Expedition depended intirely on ^{the} Kentuckians turning
out, I began to be suspicious of a disappointment on
hearing of their Marching against the Shawnee Towns
which ^{proved} too true for on my arrival at St. Vincent's
the first of July, instead of two or three hundred Men
that I was promised; I found only about thirty Volun-
teers, meeting with a Repulse from the Shawnees got
~~discouraged~~ ^{consequently} ~~being~~ ^{discouraged} ~~for some time,~~ ^{discouraged} ~~(as I hinted before)~~ ^{discouraged}
^{discouraged} ~~being~~ ^{discouraged} ~~for some time,~~ ^{discouraged} ~~(as I hinted before)~~ ^{discouraged}
suspicious of a disappointment, I had conducted
matters so as to make no ill impression on the
minds of the Savages in case I should not proceed as
the whole had suspected that my design was against
Detroit; Several Nations solicited me to go and suffer
them to Join me. Various was the conjectures respecting
the ^{of} propriety of the Attempt with the Troops we had
(about three hund. & fifty) at a Council of War held
for the purpose there was only two casting voices
against it and pretend it was on account of Genl
Sullivan's Marching against Niagara, which we
just heard ^{that} there was no doubt of his success

Detroit would fall of course; and consequently was
not worth our while Marching against it: although
I knew at same time Detroit would not fall with
Niagary, as they had an easy communication with
Montreal through another Channel by way of the
Grand River. A number of Indians visited me at this
time renewing the Chain of Friendship &c. To all of
whom I gave Genl. satisfaction, except that of my
refusal of a Tract of Land that their Chief had formerly
offered me; I inquired of several Gentlemen acquaint-
ed with them, why they were silent about it; their
opinion was that the Indians being exceedingly
jealous about their Lands being taken without their
consent, being told by the English that I had a
design on their Country, by my accepting a Tract
from them as a present, would prove ~~that~~ sufficient
to them that what they had been told was false,
being satisfied in this they also had a desire of my
remaining in their Country as their Chief and Guardian
and that my refusal had given them suspicion; in order
to remove it I made a suitable Speech to them which
gave Genl. satisfaction and in a few days they with
a great deal of Ceremony presented me the following
Deed of gift.

By the Tobaccoes Son Grand Chief of all the Frankes-
haws Nations and of all the Nations Tribes, Grand Dove
to the Quabache as ordered by the master of Life, holding
the Tomahawk in one hand and Peace in the other.
Judging the Nations, giving entrance for those that
are for Peace, and making them a clear Road &c.

Declaration

Whereas for many years past, this once peaceful
Land hath been put in confusion by the English
encouraging all People to raise the Tomahawk
Against the Big Knives, saying that they were a bad
People, Rebelious, and ought to be put from under
Sun and their names to be no more.

But as the Sky at our Councils was always
Misty and never clear we still was at a loss to know
what to do, hoping that the Master of Life would one
Day or other make the Sky clear and put us in the right
Road. He taking Pettigon us went a Father among us
(Col. George Rogers Clark) that has cleared our eyes
and made our paths straight defending our Lands &c.
So that we now enjoy Peace from the Rising to the
Setting of Sun; and the Nations even to the heads of the
great River (meaning the Mississippi) are happy and will
no more listen to Bad Birds; but abide by the Councils of
their great Father, a Chief of the Big Knives that is
now among us

and

72

And whereas it is our desire that he should long
remain among us, that we may take his Council and be
happy; it also being our desire to give him Lands to reside
on in our Country that we may at all times speak to
him. After many Solicitations to him to make choice of
a Tract of Land he choosing the Lands adjoining the falls
of Ohio on the west side of said River.

I do hereby in the names of all the Great Chiefs and Warriors
of the Quabark and their Allies, Declare that so much
Lands at the Falls of Ohio contained in the following
bounds, to wit, Beginning opposite the middle of the
first Island below the Falls, Bounded upwards by the
west bank Bank of the River so far as to include two
Leagues and half on a straight line from the beginning,
thence at right angles with said line two Leagues & half in
breadth, in all its parts shall hereafter and ever be the
sole property of our great Father (Col. Clark) with all
things thereto belonging, either above or below the Earth
shall be and is his; except a Road through the said
Land to his Door which shall remain ours, and for us
to walk on to speak to our Father. All Nations from the
rising to the setting of the Sun, that are not in alliance
with us are hereby warned to esteem the said gift as
sacred and not to make that Land taste of blood; that
all People either at peace or War may repair in safety
to get Council of our Father. Whosoever first darkens

That Land shall no longer have a Name. This declaration shall forever be a Witness between all Nations and our present & future; that the said Lands are forever hereafter his Property. In witness whereof I do in the name of all the Great Chiefs and Warriors of the Quabach in open Council affix my mark and Seal done at St. Vincents this 16th day of June 1779
(Signed) Francis son of Tobacco.

Which Deed, I accepted, and Indevoured to convince them how much I prized so liberal a gift &c. as I had no Idea of having Property in the Lands myself, knowing the Laws of my Country justly against it; I chose it at the Falls of Ohio suspecting that I might hereafter find it necessary to fortify that Place for conveniency of free Intercourse Having a Number of supernumerary Officers I sent them into the Settlement Recruiting finding the Interest of the Department required me to spend a few months at the Falls of Ohio being also Induced with the hopes of giving the Shawnee a Drubbing in case a sufficient Force could be again raised at Kentucky; After giving proper Instructions for the direction of the Com^{rs} of the different Posts I set out for the Falls where I arrived safe on the 20 day of August ~~and~~ I received an Letter of proof from his Excellency much to my Satisfaction having fresh Assurance of a sufficient Reinforcement and his Intention to correct a

Lack of

72

Fortification at or near the Mouth of Ohio, so much
the desire of every Person it being a Place of great
Importance, and by having a strong Fortification &c
it would immediately be the Mast and Key of the
Western Country; all my Expectations in my being
here has been disappointed (excepting laying up
a considerable Quantity of Beef) by ~~Loss~~ Loss of the
Ohio which is remarkable that it would be worth
Recording, I was being able to navigate it with the
smallest Canoes for several months Past.

I shall not for the future leave it in Your Power
to accuse me for a Neglect of Friendship, but shall
continue to transmit to you whatever I think
worth Your notice

I am, Sir with Esteem Yours

P.S. As for the description of the Illinois Country
which you seem so anxious for you may expect to
have by the ensuing Fall as I expect by that Period
to be able to give you a more Genl. Idea of it. This you
may take for granted that its more Beautiful than
any Idea I could have formed of a Country almost
in a state of Nature, every thing you behold is an
Additional Beauty; On the River you'll find the
finest Lands the Sun ever shone on; In the high
Country you will find a Variety of Poor & Rich Lands
with large Meadows extending beyond the reach of
Your Eyes Variegated with groves of Trees appearing

like Islands in the Sea covered with Buffloes or
other Game; in many Places with a good Glass
You may see all those that is on their feet in half
a Million of Acres; so level is the Country, which
some future day will excel in Cattle. The Settlem-
ments of the Illinois commenced about one
hundred Years ago by a few Traders from Can-
my Reflections on that head its situation the
probability of a flourishing Trade the state
of the Country at present what its capable of
Producing My opinion Respecting the
cause of those extensive Plains & the
Advantages arising by strong Fortifications
and Settlements at the mouth of Ohio. The
different Nations and of Indians their Traditions
Numbers &c. You may expect in my
next

W. B. Clark
Esq.