

In a dispatch to Sir George Prevost dated December 3, 1811, General Brock said:

My first care on my arrival in this province was to direct the officers of the Indian department at Amherstburg to exert their whole influence with the Indians to prevent the attack which I understood a few tribes meditated against the American frontier; but their efforts proved fruitless. Such was their infatuation that the Indians refused to listen to advice, and they are now so deeply engaged that I despair of being able to withdraw them from the contest in time to avert their destruction. A high degree of fanaticism, which has been for years working in their minds, has led to the present state of affairs.

Yet when he wrote these words he was convinced that war with the United States was unavoidable, and deliberately contemplated seeking the assistance of the Indians in that event.

"But before I can expect an active co-operation on the part of the Indians," he continued, "the reduction of Detroit and Michilimackinac must convince that people (who consider themselves to have been sacrificed to our policy in the year 1794) that we are earnestly engaged in the war. The Indians, I am given to understand, are eager for an opportunity to avenge the numerous injuries of which they complain. A few tribes at the instigation of a Shawanese of no note have already (altho' explicitly told not to look for assistance from us) commenced the contest. The stand which they continue to make on the Wabash against about 2,000 regulars and militia is a strong proof of the strong force which a general combination of the Indians will render necessary to protect wholly so extended a frontier."

The dispatch from Lord Liverpool to the Governor-General of Canada, dated July 28, 1811, reiterating the instructions sent to his predecessor in office on the 2d of February to exert every means in his power to restrain the Indians from hostilities does not appear to have been received by Prevost until the following January; but he was then able to reply that the wishes of the cabinet in that respect had been fully anticipated, and an extract from Brock's letter, already cited, was at once forwarded to the British minister at Washington to be used as evidence of his pacific attitude.

A vague rumor of the battle at Tippecanoe had reached Elliot at Amherstburg as early as the 3d of December, 1811, but it was not until the 12th of January, 1812, that he obtained what may be regarded as the official Indian account of that affair:

Two young Winibiegos, no doubt out of curiosity (for it appears the Indians had no intention to attack but to defend themselves if attacked),