

Writing to General Sheaffe, on the 27th of March, he said:

I now come to that highly important part of your resources, the employment of Indians, some in aid of your precautionary measures of defense and others for making offensive demonstrations for the recovery of their usurped territory, the latter of which can not fail to act as a powerful diversion in your favor. In consideration, therefore, of the movement of the confederate nations from the Wabash to the River Raisin under Tecumseh, and of the expected arrival from the westward of several warlike tribes with Mr. Dickson, the aggregate of which will be formidable, I have decided on intrusting the management of those distant tribes of Indians to other hands than those which are at present employed in the Indian department at Amherstburg, and accordingly have appointed Mr. Robert Dickson deputy superintendent of the Indians in Michigan and the conquered territory, on account of the high opinion I entertain of his courage, his perseverance, his integrity, and his zeal for the service. The late instance of the intrigue by the Indian department, in the case of Norton, and the evidence it afforded of the want of proper subordination, have put me on my guard against their endeavors to thwart my designs or impede their progress because they are not to be executed by themselves, and induces me to recommend you to vest in Colonel Proctor sufficient authority to support Mr. Dickson in his organization of the Indians from the westward, and to check the prodigal expenditure of provisions, and to establish strict impartiality in the treatment they experience from us.

I can not too frequently repeat to you that having been under the necessity of availing ourselves of the Indians' assistance, it is desirable, on every principle of humanity and policy, that all practicable means should be adopted to soften the ferocity of their usual mode of warfare and to restrain them in it.