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Letters and Documents
Informing the Indians of the
End of the War of 1812,
St. Louis, May 15, 1815

by William Clark

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To the Tribe or Nation of the Chippawas.

In pursuance of Instructions from the President of the United States it has become the duty of the undersigned to communicate to you that a Treaty of peace was concluded on the 24th of December last between the United States and Great Britain at Ghent and ratified by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate on the 17th of ~~December~~^{February} last. By the ninth Article of which Treaty it is stipulated, that the United States shall put an end to all hostilities with the Indian Tribes with whom they might be at war at the time of the ratification, and to restore to such Tribes all the rights and privileges to which they were entitled previous to the war; Provided that such Tribes or Nations should agree to desist from all hostilities against the United States of America their Citizens and subjects; upon the ratification of such Treaty being notified to such Tribes or Nations and should so desist accordingly.

By the same Article it is also stipulated that his Britannic Majesty should likewise put an end in like manner and upon the same conditions to hostilities with the Tribes or Nations of Indians with whom he might be at war at the time of the ratification of the said Treaty.

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The United States being determined to execute every Article of the Treaty with perfect good faith, and wishing to be particularly exact in the execution of the Article above recited relating to the Indian Tribes. The President has in consequence thereof for that purpose, appointed the undersigned William Clark Governor of Missouri Territory, Minian Edwards Governor of the Illinois Territory and Auguste Chouteau of the Missouri Territory Commissioners with full power to conclude a Treaty with all those Tribes or Nations of Indians. — We therefore send you this letter by Thomas Forsyth our Agent to invite you to appoint a deputation of your Chiefs to meet us at the village of Portage des Sioux on the sixth of July next for the purpose of concluding a Treaty of peace and Amity between the United States and your Tribe or Nation conformably to the Article before mentioned.

We are also instructed by the President to inform you that as soon after peace shall be restored as may be practicable, Trading-Houses will be opened at suitable places for your accommodation.

Wm Clark

Minian Edwards

Aug. Chouteau

St. Louis May 15th 1815

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C. W. Forsyth,

You will proceed forthwith to the Illinois River and as far as practicable deliver to all the different Bands of Pottowatomies, Kickapoos, Ottowas & Chippawas residing upon the Illinois River and its waters or any of the waters that empty themselves into the Mississippi the communication with which you are intrusted.

If it should be impracticable for you personally to see all those different Bands, you will engage some fit person to carry a Talk (in substance the same as that of which you are the bearer) to those Bands.

If practicable you will send similar Talks to the Sauks, Winnebagoes & Menomones informing them at the same time that a Mission has been or will also be sent to them direct from this place.

You will avail yourself of every opportunity to communicate to us the reception you may meet with, and in general every thing else that may be calculated to show the disposition of the Indians towards our Government.

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Your return as soon as practicable

after the objects of your mission can be accom-
-plished, is on several accounts very desirable

Am. Clark

St. Milan Edwards

Aug. 1815

Exposition from (Cassidy's journal)
1815
with numerous invitations
to different Indian Nations
to attend a Treaty at Portage
des Sioux July, 1815. with the
three great warans &c. &c.

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The
15th May 1815

To the Tribe or Nation of the Menomonees.

En Suivant les instructions du
President des Etat Unis il est du devoir
des Soussignés de vous Communiquer qu'un
Traité de Paix a été Conclu le 24 Decembre
dernier entre les Etat Unis et la grande
Bretagne, a Gent, et Ratifier par le
President avec l'avis et consentement du
Senat, le 17 ~~Janvier~~ ^{Fevrier} dernier

Par l'article 9 du dit Traité il est
Stipulé que les Etat Unis doive mettre fin
a toute hostilité avec les Tribu Sauvage
avec les qu'il ils pouvoit être en guerre au
tems de la Ratification, et de remettre a ces
Tribu tout les droit et Privilège au quel
ils avoit droit avant la guerre; Pourvu
que telle Tribu ou Nation se desiste de tout
hostilité Contre les Etat Unis de l'Amérique
leur Citoyen ou Sujet, sur la Ratification
du Traité étant notifier a tel Tribu ou
Nation, et qu'ils se desisterent Conformement,

Par le meme article il est aussi Stipulé
que sa Majesté Britannique mettra aussi
fin, de meme maniere et sur les meme
Conditions aux hostilité avec les Tribu

ou Nation Sauvage avec les qu'il ils soient
en guerre au tems de la ratification du dit
Traité

Les Etat Unis dant déterminera
d'exécuter chaque Article du Traité avec
les bonne foi et d'insant être particulie-
rement exact dans l'exécution de l'article
si haut visité relativement au Tribu
Sauvage, Le Président a en Conse-
quence et pour cette effet appointé les
Soussigné, William Clark, Gouverneur
du Territoire du Missouir et Ninian Edwards,
Gouverneur du Territoire Illinois, August
Chouteau, du Territoire Missouir, Com-
missaire avec plein pouvoir de conclure
un Traité avec tout les Tribu ou Nations
de Sauvage; ces Pourquoi nous
vous envoyons cette lettre par Thomas
Forsyth ^{W. Agent} pour vous inviter d'appointer
un deputations de vos Chef de nous l'en-
contre au Village du Portage des Sioux sur
le six de Juillet prochain — pour expris
conclure un Traité de pais et d'amitié
entre les Etat Unis et vos Tribu ou
Nations en Conformity a l'article si
davant mentionné. —

Nous Somme aussi instrui par le
Président de vous informer que aussitot

que la Paix s'ya tendu, comme pouvant
estre praticable, des Maisons de Traite
suont ouverte a des place convenable
pour votre accomodement.

Wm Clark

Ninian Edwards
Aug. Houteau