

the territory will shortly be in considerable danger--Its physical force is very inconsiderable and is growing weaker while it presents numerous points of attack--

The Winnebagoes, Kickapoos & Pottowattomies composed the principle strength of the Prophets army and are certainly greatly irritated by their losses--The two former, and a large portion of the latter reside in this territory and can with great facility make hostile incursions into our settlements----and they will most certainly do so, unless our differences with England are speedily adjusted---for till that event whatever professions they may make I am convinced we need not flatter ourselves with safety unless by waging war against them and perpetually harrassing them we convince them that it is their interest to sue for peace--Independent of their present causes of irritation it is very certain that the British companies who are constantly among them have infinitely more influence with them than we have---

Under these circumstances I cannot forbear to solicit a portion of the regular force for the protection of this territory---

My own opinion which I submit with great deference is that two complete companies at least are necessary and if they were composed of what are commonly called backwoods riflemen they would furnish the cheapest and most effectual defence by having stations somewhere on the frontiers from which parties should be constantly detached in different direction as spies always leaving enough to defend the station--If with this we