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Near Zanesville Ohio
Feby 17th 1815

Sir,

The season for hostile operations in the Northwest is approaching and appearances indicate that the efforts of the Enemy to regain possession of the country will be vigorous and proportioned to the importance of the object. After two years of unsuccessful exertions, they have recently succeeded in terminating the hereditary enmity between the Chipeways and Sioux and will probably direct their united exertions upon our frontiers. So long as we retain the naval ascendancy upon Lakes Erie and Huron, the difficulty they must encounter in the transportation of provisions and stores will render it almost impossible for them to make any serious attempt upon Detroit and its dependent posts. The most they can expect will be to provide the garrison of Michillimackinac and their numerous trading establishments and engagees with provisions and to furnish the necessary presents and supplies for the Indians. A desultory and marauding but a cruel and ferocious warfare upon defenceless settlements will be the result of this state of things.

But there is reason to believe that they are forming a naval establishment at Turkey point near Long point, and at Matchedastibay in order again to contest with us the command of the Lakes. In this situation, I trust you will pardon me for enter somewhat into detail upon the subject of our Indian relations and of the