

2/ meet me upon the march that I might employ them in missions to the several Tribes which have a part of their warriors with the Prophet--All the Chiefs of this faithful Tribe that were able to march set out from their Towns on the 6th Inst They had proceeded but a few miles when they were met by a deputation from the Prophets Town requiring from the Tribe a categorical answer to the question "Whether they would or would not join them in the war against the United States-- that they had taken up the Tomhawk and that they would lay it down only with their lives--They had however positive assurances of victory and when they had beaten the Americans, those Tribes who refused to join them would have cause to repent it--" The Delaware Chiefs immediately dispatched the Interpreter Mr. Connor and four of their men to inform me of this circumstance and "that they had determined to go immediately to the Prophets Town to endeavour to divert him from his purpose, that they would be with me in a few days and communicate the result of their mission--And that if they were unsuccessful in their Endeavours to prevent the Prophet from striking us they would abandon him to his fate"--From this statement of facts, Sir, you will no doubt be of opinion with me that the return of the Troops under my command without effecting the dispersion or humiliation of the Prophets Party would be attended with the most fatal consequences--If he is thus presumptuous upon our advance our return without chastising him or greatly alarming his fears and those of his followers would give him an eclat that would enervate his followers and we would have to wage through the