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To George C. Sibley at Fort Osage

John Johnson at Fort Madison

John Johnston at Fort Wayne

J. B. Varnum Jr at Michilimackinac

Mathew Swin at Chicago

Samuel Tupper at Sandusky

Sis

Office Indian Trade
16 April 1811

There is reason to apprehend, that, in consequence of the operation of the late law, prohibiting the importation into the United States of British Goods, The British agents and Traders with the Indians, may attempt to excite in their minds prejudices and hostile dispositions towards the United States, insinuating, that as the British goods intended for their trade will not be permitted to enter and pass the American posts on the Western frontier, this act (which has been dictated as a measure of general policy, in relation to Great Britain), was intended as an act of hostility against the Indians - It is particularly expected of you, under such circumstances, ^{that} you will redouble your efforts, to satisfy the wants and conciliate the minds of the Indians within your reach, that you will avail yourself of every opportunity, to explain to their chiefs and influential men, - how the measure in question has been brought about, that, so far from being intended to exclude British Goods from their Country only, or to do them mischief it is general, and pervades the whole of the United States, ^{that the Government of the U. States,} after repeated remonstrances & from year to year, against the injuries and violations of their rights, on the part of Great Britain, and without redress, have at length been compelled - to shut their ports against their trade, or to go to war; that their love of peace has induced them to prefer the former, altho such a step must be productive of great inconvenience to all their own people; that the President expects that the Red people, when they come to understand the true cause of this state of things, will cheerfully submit to it; since it has been intended to avert - a still greater evil - War, which would distress them, the Indians, by closing still more the avenues of trade - that it is the fault of the British and not of the American Government that their goods cannot be admitted, and ^{that} they the British have it in their power, ^{to remove this prohibition,} by treating us as friends and returning to a course of justice -

It may happen that the agents of the War Department may have occasion during the ensuing