

pears in his interest as a lawyer, did not hesitate to buy from my clerk (I can prove that he is so since I paid him commission), and advanced him goods. I am persuaded that Mr. Gray did not know the circumstances, but he should not blame me for seizing my own property. Besides, Reah's own words, when he said that there was "No Law here," convinced me that he meant to evade payment and prompted me to action. It was his own bad conduct that influenced me, as you will see from the following transaction.

In the autumn of 1784 I asked him to buy corn for me for fodder. He got about 6 or 7 hundred tresses⁶³ and told me that he had bargained for them at the rate of 7 tresses for 1 beaver. I was depending on his purchase but when I needed the corn he would not let me have it for the same number of tresses for a beaver as he had got it, but wanted to sell it to me, though he had even bought it with my merchandise and I had already paid him a commission. After several demands he would not let me have any corn at all, but sold it to others without any profit.

That is the way I have been treated. I could not begin to tell you all I have lost through him, and I beg you to have him arrested as soon as he reaches Detroit, and to prosecute him to the full extent of the law to the amount of my debt. I will be greatly obliged to you.

Be assured that I intend to do all possible to pay my obligations, both active and passive. The troubles in the Indian country, and the uncertainty where they will go for shelter, prevent them from hunting, and disturb me also. The persistent menace of an influx of Americans here in the spring induces me to think of going elsewhere, and thus avoid the pillage they threaten to all engaged in the Indian trade. These are only rumors which might, however, become facts,

regions at this period. In 1785-86 he was at Miamitown, where George Leith wrote him a letter advising him not to visit Detroit since William Robertson (to whom Gray was indebted) would do everything in his power to make trouble for him. See *Indiana Quarterly Magazine of History*, V, 142 ff. His name occurs frequently in the manuscript account books of the Miamis Company, preserved in the Burton Hist. Coll.

63 Braids of corn, i.e., corn braided together by the husks.