

CONDITIONS AT ST. JOSEPH³¹St Joseph's 8^h Sept 1807

My Dear Father Your favours of the 18th & 21st of Aug^t came to hand. after looking over my Desk I found the Patent of my Town Lot. therefore am sorry to have given you any trouble about it. I'm rather reconciled to my situation I have a Number of Cabbage plants that are verry promising & two large Turnip Patches in the Woods which will be verry serviceable or agreeable with some of the Kings Own this Winter. my Sellery will do very well & Potatoes I will have an abundant Crop being a Purchase from a Soldier who left this on my arrival.

The appearance of Rupture with America will blow over I hope shortly. the Americans generally make great noise & stick at trifles. they are constantly in Alarm either by an Indian War or at the least shadow of Bands of Indians they imagine their heads in danger of being scalped No wonder poor Devils they have reason to fear the Indians in particular from the latters Cruelty to them. We entertain hopes that all differances will be amicably settled at home before the Winter is over. Its Certain that the Indians in this quarter are verry quiet & are prep[aring] to visit the Shawnee prophet & by no means inclined to Hostilities. I do assure you that Johnney has not directly or indirectly sold a shillings worth except two Kegs of H[igh] Wines which belonged to Duff. in short its well known that I had no goods whatever except my stores of Flour & 4 Barr^{ls} of Pork two of the latter entirely Tainted and good for Nothing the Whole of my flour is in the Kings Store except a Barr^l I gave to get my House plastered. As to Johnney he brought up his Trunck with his wear^e apparel only therefore those who have endeavoured to spread that report must have done it thro malice. So far from Trading M^r R^t Dickson was to have taken him as a Clerk to keep the S. W. C^o shop if the C^o had not been already provided with one. Col. Claus came in the same Vessel with him & M^r Selby & knows verry well that he had not a shillings worth. I spoke to Col. Claus to intercede in getting him appointed Commissary. his answer was that he would have been verry

³¹ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.