

tain that a war of words, and, to some extent, of laws, was waged against the Company, as well as against the Bank, and Mr. Burnett, as an Agent of the Government was called upon *by authority* to furnish information to be used in the attack upon the Company.

A letter dated St. Louis, Mo., May 3d, 1831, to Mr. Burnett, reads thus: "The American Fur Company seems to have made war upon the agents in all the Missouri country, except one or two who belong to them; hence the reason for the publication of a series of numbers in the *St. Louis Beacon*, commencing 3d Feb., to which you are referred. They have been attributed to me.

"I wish you to furnish me a full and minute history of the workings and doings of this Company in your quarter; *whether they do not oppose the present administration and views of the Government and the agents of the Government*; whether they do not cheat and impose on the Indians of your agency, as to prices, &c. What are their prices, and whether they have not purchased up all the interpreters that are worth anything; whether they do not hold councils with the Indians, and render their agents odious to them; whether they do not employ persons that are really opposed to our Government; (the monopoly I refer to is the Am. Fur Co.;) whether they do not bid an insolent defiance to the authority of the Government and its agents; and is not their course opposed to civilizing the Indians?

"I want the benefit of your information generally; but not to be published, or your name in any manner exposed, or in the slightest manner referred to unless authorized. This Company have threatened to break down the Department and elevate themselves; hence the lot has fallen on me to expose and break them down, which will be accomplished. *Doubt not; I know the authority under which I proceed. Direct to me, care of Gen. Clark.*"

Whatever may have been the motive of this system of espionage, or whether Mr. Burnett did as required, I know not; but I