

the supposed profits of the trade, in order to reward partizans for their political services.

The Government had its factories established under its patronage and control, the offices wherof could be filled by the Executive with the same right and authority as other offices under his control. But these factories had proved a failure as to profit, and therefore were of no value. In all my intercourse with the traders, I found them very prudent and cautious in expressing their views on politics; and, without exception, found them disposed to sustain the Government in its measures regulating intercourse with the Indians. This was policy in them, lest they should bring down the power of the Government upon them, in the shape of oppressive laws, which would break up their trade.

I allude to these facts, to show the absurdity and bad policy, in a free country especially, of this "spoils" theory, and whether Democratic or Whig, or any other party should be at the head of affairs, the rewarding of partizans with office is setting a precedent which must eventually, if not discontinued, lead to the ruin of our institutions. Those out of office are always more numerous than those who are in, and if at any time the "outs" unite, they can oust the "ins;" and by this process, the most villainous may gain the highest power, and by sufficiently rewarding his followers, secure himself, as did Louis Napoleon, on a throne, before the country is aware of it.

In May 1831, Gen. Street leaving the agency in care of Mr. Burnett, the latter reported to Gen. Clark, on the 18th of that month, that "the Indian relations among the different tribes of this quarter, have not a very amicable appearance. The threatening of the Sauks and Foxes, and occasional acts of mischief committed by them against the whites, in the vicinity of Rock Island, have doubtless been communicated to you before this time.

"The Sioux chief Wabashaw and a considerable number of his tribe, are now here. A small party of them who came across the country from Red Cedar, state that within their country, north of the line of the purchase of last summer, they came upon a war