

premises; both being then under the superintendence of the War Department, the military considered the Indian Department as subordinate to theirs. But Mr. Burnett thought otherwise, claiming that each branch of the public service had its appropriate duties, with which the other should not interfere, while in case of necessity one should assist the other, both acting in unison. And as the Sauks and Foxes alluded to in his letter to Gen. Clark did come to the place, with whom Col. Morgan held a council without the knowledge or co-operation of the Agent, Mr. Burnett claimed to be informed of the nature and extent of the proceedings, and addressed a note, dated May 23d, 1831, to Col. Morgan, as follows:

"Sir—I was informed yesterday that you held, on the morning of that day, a council with a party of Sioux and a party of Fox Indians which you had assembled in the village of Prairie du Chien. As the acting Indian Agent at this place, it properly concerns me to know what takes place at this post in relation to Indian affairs. I should therefore be glad to be informed of the circumstances that required such council. The objects to be effected, and the results accomplished; also the names of the chiefs or men of influence of either tribe, who were present. Will you please to communicate to me as early as may be convenient, the desired information, and likewise whether Gen. Street was apprised, previous to his departure, of the contemplated meeting of those Indians."

This brought from Col. Morgan the following tart reply, and raised the question of prerogative:

"Sir—I acknowledge in you no right to call on me to render an account of my proceedings to you, though if you will do me the favor to call at my quarters on my return from St. Peter's, for which place I am just about to set out, I will explain to you the object of the council and tell you what passed. You were apprised yourself of the Foxes having been invited, and you knew they had arrived. Why stay four or five miles off? I stated to