

and when the troops were all assembled, I ordered those that had refused their rations, out of the ranks, took away their guns, and forbid every person giving them any support, or, at their peril to harbor them and gave orders to the officers of the Indian Department to tell the Indians, that if any of them were found any distance from here, to bring them back, dead or alive. They were much surprised at the sentence, and immediately wished to apologize for it, but I would not hear them. I, at the same time, thanked the others for not allowing themselves to be led into such a disgraceful plot.

MONDAY, Oct. 10th.—Capt. Dease distributed powder and tobacco to the starving Indians here about; and in order to provide flour for the garrison, he at the same time was under the absolute necessity of exchanging powder for that article. The inhabitants not being able to thrash their wheat for the want of time, I was obliged to exempt them from working at the garrison.

TUESDAY, October 11th.—Employed the day in writing letters to Mackinaw, etc.:

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, FORT MCKAY, October 11, 1814.

Lieut.-Col. R. McDouall—

*Sir:*—I have the honor to communicate to you, that yesterday a discovering party, I had sent off sometime ago, returned with news that five of the eight gun-boats, that were driven back from the Rock River (the other three are supposed to have continued their route to St. Louis), are at the entrance of the Riviere des Moines; and the Americans have built a fort there, on the east side of the Mississippi, about one hundred and forty leagues from this, and about half way from this to St. Louis, two leagues below the fort of the Rapids. Interpreter Guillroy, who headed this party of eight Sauks, reports to have been within musket shot of the fort for a whole day, and discovered three men, two of which he supposed were looking for honey; and wishing to take them prisoners, prevailed upon the Indians not to fire upon them. By this means they unfortunately made their escape. The third man was walking about the boat, all of which they have uncovered, and made use of the boards to cover their houses.

The fort is about fifty yards square, and is picketed in with very large oak pickets, about twelve feet high, and is situated on a high hill that terminates at the water side, where their boats are hauled up. They have cleared all the trees and brush from the back part of their fort to the distance of musket shot; but in front, to the water side, they have left a thick wood standing, I suppose to cover their going for water. At the north side of their fort, about seven or eight hundred yards distance, is a small hill or elevation, which