

me such as from their zeal and good conduct, merit my approbation, and such rewards as may hereafter be in my power to bestow.

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*Capt. Anderson to Lieut. Col. R. McDouall*

PRAIRIE DES CHIENS, FORT MCKAY, 18th Oct., 1814.

*Sir*:—I had the honor to receive your favor of the 23d Sept., by Mr. Rolette, and as Lieut. Graham, whom I had sent off with dispatches to you, on the 13th inst., having returned with Mr. Rolette here, affords me an early opportunity of returning you my thanks for your approbation of the measures I have adopted in the defense of this post.

Long 'ere this you will have received my detail of our successes at the Rock River. Though no prizes were made, yet the favorable result of that expedition has been of the first consequence in the preservation of this country; for had the enemy put their design in execution, and had murdered the Sauks in that inhuman and American-like manner, as was their intention, as mentioned in my letter of the 11th inst., the Indian tribes on the Mississippi would not have been easily brought to understand or believe that our Government's intention to support them is real. In fact, the Indian character is such, that when a promise is made them, and not fulfilled at the time appointed, they immediately, without paying attention to the circumstances that cause the disappointment, attribute it to design, and a conditional promise with them is construed into a real or positive one.

The unforeseen and unfortunate delay of the Indian goods, notwithstanding Captain Dease's and my indefatigable endeavors to explain to the Indians from whence it proceeds, is seriously injurious to the confidence placed by them; and if unfortunately anything should turn up to prevent Robert Dickson coming out here, and the supplies not reaching us, one-half of the Indians must inevitably starve to death. This last circumstance, which they themselves are continually observing to me, ought and would to a set of rational beings in their situation, convince them, that without the supplies they receive from the British Government, they cannot exist.