

DICKSON TO LAWE

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, January 15, 1815.

Dear Sir:—This goes by La Rose, who will give you all the news in detail. We have been very busy here since our arrival—Indians arriving every day, so many that with the expedition I send to the Sauks, I have almost expended the whole of the goods and ammunition. There were four hundred pounds gunpowder entirely lost in Pullman's boats. We had much difficulty in getting here. The Mississippi was shut up the night before we arrived at the entry of the Ouisconsin. I received your letter. I am glad that the Indians are not dissatisfied with me. I have always done as much as in my power for them—if they were not better supplied with provisions last Summer at Mackinac, I did what I could for them with much trouble and vexation to myself.

I wish I could have got the keg you sent after me. It contains gun-flints, of which article I am much in want, and also gunpowder. I have hardly any remaining, and what shall we do in the Spring if not timely supplied? Probably there may be some come to La Baye by this time. I have been obliged to bring Mr. Rolette to a court of inquiry. I accused him publicly of treasonable practices, and dangerous and illegal conduct to the Indians. He certainly occasioned the death of Champigny and Antoine Dubois by his sending gunpowder to disaffected Indians against the positive orders of the commanding officer here. There are many other matters; it was only as an agent for the British Government that I preferred the charges against him. I had long ago forgiven his inveterate malice against me. In whatever manner it may end, I have only done my duty. La Rose will tell you the manner in which the Indian was shot, and the pains I took to get him apprehended. It was high time to do something of this kind, and there never was a more proper example, which I hope will be attended with the best effects.¹

The Michigans, on the 31st of December, proceeded to open

¹ For the deaths of Champigny and Dubois, and execution of their murderer, see vol. ix, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, pp. 200, 201, 273-275, 296, 297.