

attributed in a great measure to his courage and well managed firing.

I am sorry to be under the necessity of reproaching some of the Indians, but Puants particularly, for shameful depredations committed during the action on the 17th and since. Many of them (Puants) in place of meeting the enemy immediately on their arrival ran off to the farms, killed the inhabitants' cattle and pillaged their houses even to the covering off their beds, and leaving many without a second shirt to put on their backs. Even in the village they did the same outrages, breaking to pieces what they could not carry away. This prevented the Militia joining me, being absolutely obliged to keep guard over their houses, &c.

The Sioux, Soteux,¹ Court Oreilles and part of the Folla-voines though perfectly useless obeyed my orders pretty well, but the Puants behaved in a most villanous manner and were I permitted to decide their fate should never receive a shilling's worth of presents from Government, on the contrary I would cut them off to a man. They despise the idea of receiving orders from an officer that does not hold a blanket in one hand and a piece of pork in the other to pay them to listen to what he may have to say, audaciously saying they are under no obligations to us but they have themselves preserved the country. The moment they had finished pillaging and got their share of the prize they marched off, except about ten men who are this instant in the act of cutting up the green wheat, which if they do not desist I shall be obliged to confine them to the fort, not only for the good of the citizens but for our own safety as provisions will be very scarce till after harvest.

Since the surrender of the Fort and the departure of the Puants the inhabitants have all come forward and taken the oath of allegiance, and are now doing duty on patrol or otherwise as required.

As to going down the Mississippi and returning by the way of Chigago as was originally intended, is now rendered impracticable for the present—no dependence whatever to be placed in the Indians except the Sioux, the others having

¹ Sauteurs, or Chippewas.—Ed.