

I hardly know what to say respecting Mr. Masca's¹ wheat his mode of selling it is quite new & he deserves credit for his ingenuity, but I cannot allow myself to be so greatly imposed upon. His offer is like selling a loaf of Bread reserving all the Crust & as much of the Crumb as he chooses to take. Had I accepted his offer, Masca & Rabbee would have settled the business handsomely. If he will sell his Wheat without any further Stipulation at Three dollars a Bushell take it—if not we shall keep our Eye on it when Hunger will make us keen. We will try to do without his Oxen for the present. My respects to Mr. Masca.

It gives me pleasure to learn that the Sturgeon have began to appear at La Baye. We are going to pierse the Lake tomorrow. I trust that our Fishery will be productive else we shall look blue before the Spring. On my arrival here from below had been eating pease without grease for some-time. I gave them as much Beef as they could eat & stuff—they only swallowed the moderate portion of 150 lbs. for their Breakfast. Thank Heaven they are now dispersed. There came some time sinse four Otoways & a woman here & I cannot prevail on them to move off they will neither hunt or fish and I cannot see them starve. My Provisions are very low. I send for two bags of Pease & two hundred Flour. Lt Pulman is to give two men to assist them to the Small lake. I hope the ice will be strong enough for Sleighs towards the end of the Month. I should be sorry to be deprived of the pleasure of seeing the People New Years day.

Endeavour to discover who gave the Indians Rum. I shall take care they will not follow that practise long. Whoever exchanges or buys any Articles given by his Majesty as presents to the Indians shall refund the same when demanded & if refused shall be compelled by Force. You will tell the Indians to take back their property immediately.

When Mr. Grignon & you come up we shall fix on the proper manner of sending the Prisoners to Mackinac. I am

¹C. B. Masca, the nickname for Dominique Brunette, Sr., a resident of Green Bay, on the west side of the Fox.—(*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x., pp. 136, 138.) He appears to have been a miller.—ED.