

agents thus appointed, who know their duty, I would venture to say that Indian affairs would go on properly. A Department thus arranged, I would then recommend to treat the Indians well, and give them Indian laws to treat them well. I mean that a few presents be given them every September, so that they might commence their fall hunting, and a little liquor every spring and autumn for a frolic. The sale of spirituous liquors by traders ought to be prohibited, as it is well known they will sell every thing they have for liquor when intoxicated. Listen to their complaints and render them justice; never promise more than you mean to perform; allow them a free trade to all places and encourage as many persons as possible to engage in the Indian trade, so that the Indians may see that they are dependant on us, and keep them from travelling five or six hundred miles to visit a British post where their minds are poisoned and prepared for any event that may be in agitation. To give them Indian law I would only make this difference, give them so many days to deliver up the transgressor, and if he failed then to retaliate, and not allow any traders to go into their country, and there can be no doubt but they will ask for peace, and take care that mischief will not again take place, or if it did they would not hesitate to deliver up the culprit. We see few or no American traders in any part of the Illinois country; two reasons may be given for this: first, Indian goods brought into this country are always sold so high and at a very short credit, by which means those who have the means purchase up the goods and hire those who have not the means to purchase, to barter the goods in the Indian country, by which means a cargo of Indian goods that would employ two or three more persons if the credit was extended, fall into the hands of one purchaser who employs only one person and perhaps himself to barter these goods in the Illinois country: second, it is impossible that any individual can purchase goods in this country and sell them as cheap as the factories.

British traders only can oppose the factories from the extensive credit they have, and the superior quality of their goods. There can be no other way of bringing the fur