

me, I have deputed myself and find no difficulty. Indeed I speak better than I had supposed I could, and casually learn that the Indians and whites think I speak very well. The Indians have a great opinion of my gravity and portly look (on which you joked me) and the officers of the Fort have paid me great attention. Major Fowle sent workmen to fit up my room and run a partition across the council chamber which I had suggested as proper, and is very respectful and friendly.

Like Bolingbroke, tho' I have kept pretty close to my room, and mean not to make an everyday exhibition of my person. I only appear in the Indian room when I wish to see Indians. At other times I turn them over to the Interpreter, and never receive any in my chamber.

You will doubtless think me very particular, and be tired of my garulity; the situation is new to me, and having craved your advice I am shewing you that I am acting upon it, or in accordance with your views.

Mr. Douseman,<sup>1</sup> who takes this, is going, and I have written very hastily, not knowing of his departure but a few hours. With respect and deep considerations of regard, I am, sir,

Your most ob<sup>dt</sup> h<sup>ble</sup> s<sup>t</sup>,

JOS. M. STREET.

*Ninian Edwards, Governor of Illinois, Belleville, Illinois.*

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PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, December 28, 1827.

DEAR SIR,—The closing of the river appears absolutely to cut me off from any intercourse with the civilized world. I arrived here the first of Nov., since when, we have had *one mail* from below. Capt. Clark of the army<sup>2</sup> came in this

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<sup>1</sup> Hercules L. Dousman, then confidential agent of the American Fur company at Prairie du Chien.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> Doubtless Nathan Clark, afterwards commandant at Forts Howard and Winnebago, respectively. He was a native of Connecticut, entering the service May 19, 1813; became captain in the 5th infantry, June 29, 1824; brevet major, June 29, 1834; died at Fort Winnebago, February 18, 1836. In August, 1827, four companies of the 5th inf. had been stationed at Fort Crawford, under Brevet Major John Fowle, Jr., on account of the Winne-