

in your judgment, to which I would readily yield, as you know the country better than I do. You, no doubt, saw the report of Ossian M. Ross<sup>1</sup> and 2 other persons who viewed and marked the route from Springfield to Fever River by way of Lewiston last spring. They say the distance is only 205 miles from Springfield to Galena. I estimated it at 225. They report the road to be excellent, and that several loaded wagons proceeded directly after them upon their route and found no obstructions in the way except Rock R. If the route can be made to run by the Fort this difficulty can be removed, as the land there is within our limits, free from any danger from Indians from its vicinity to the Fort, and some person can be got to settle at the ferry, if the Government will extend any privilege to him as to the ferry. The route by Peoria crosses R. R. in the Winnebago country. A glance at the map with your knowledge of this country will make all this plain to you.

A word about the Winnebagoes. By-the-by, you could do something in the furtherance of my views if you have time and disposition to do it, the latter I can never doubt. I have met many of them, and numbers are calling to see me every week. Indians are very curious and like to *see* and *feel* all who are placed near them. They remain as yet very quiet, and are engaged in hunting and those who come bring some furs and venison. I am, as you know, a novice at Indian affairs. Yet I am unable to conquer my suspicions that there is much dissatisfaction amongst the nation in relation to the people of the U. S., and I am thoroughly convinced that if the Winnebagoes could induce any other tribe or tribes to join them, a stubborn resistance would be made to the *execution of the Red Bird*. He is a *favorite of his people*, and has obtained a high reputation amongst the whites previous to the late most unprovoked murders.

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<sup>1</sup> Ossian M. Ross, of Lewiston, was one of the earliest settlers in Fulton county, Illinois,—being the first justice of the peace in that county, the first postmaster and the first tavern-keeper,—and kept the ferry across the Illinois river, at the mouth of the Spoon (present site of Havana); he was therefore interested in having the highway between Springfield and the lead mines run by way of his Havana ferry and his Lewiston tavern.—ED.