

*of Lead & quilt them together yourselves.*<sup>1</sup> With regard to your works at the Fort, you must follow the dictates of your own judgment, in carrying on those that you deem indispensable for your security & convenience. I am inclined to think that the speech you sent me, relative to Wabasha, originates in Mr. Dicksons quarrel with Mr. Rollette; that chief gave the most solemn promises here of his attachment to the British cause, & of his determination to support Colonel McKay to the last. Show no unnecessary distrust, but do everything to confirm him in those sentiments, to inspire confidence, & to do away with jealousy. Tell him and the Little Corbeau, from me, that I have full reliance on the promises they made me at this place, & on their utmost zeal and exertions for the King their Great Father, and that they may depend on mine to support their nation *to the utmost of my means*, that the time is not far off, when a Great change must take place, which will enable me, I trust, amply to supply their wants.

I inclose you a commission as commanding the Indian Department & on the Mississippi, also a few Newspapers, that having an account of the negotiations at Ghent, has been taken away & mislaid, but my letter contains the substance of it. I hope soon to forward it with Newspapers of a late date & an army List. I know nothing of Mr. Deace's appointment prior to my own. I *recommended* his being allowed a year's pay as Captain of Militia; he may be continued for his allowances only, until he is confirmed in the Indian Department. I am equally ignorant of Mr. La Puche's real rank, or who appointed him. I understand he can neither read or write, and of course is admirably calculated for a commissary to such a man as Mr. Dickson! who is himself the very quentessence of Supiness & indolence. I trust you will be able to introduce some regularity into this confused Department, particularly its accounts.

We are here, as you may suppose, sadly off for almost

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<sup>1</sup> Bulk lead was readily obtainable from the neighboring mines which were worked by Indians.—Ed.