

exorbitant price for their Gunpowder, I thought it advisable to repair to Green Bay myself, particularly as my presence at Fort McKay was not necessary.<sup>1</sup> I have accordingly come here in the depth of winter, and in a state of health which nothing but imperious necessity would warrant my hazarding. On arriving here, I ordered the Traders to assemble, and freely declared my sentiments upon their conduct. The result of those enquiries, which I caused to be made, has left at my disposal a considerable quantity of Gunpowder, and other articles, much wanted at Fort McKay: and which I shall endeavour to get conveyed there without loss of time.

I am extremely sorry to find that the disposition of the Indians to go to Mackinac is by no means such as we could wish, they are not inclined to go and leave their families starving as they did last winter. The extreme distress to which they had been reduced from a dependance upon our promises (whether they have been authorized or not I cannot say) and our inability to afford them any permanent relief, have not I regret to say merely caused dissatisfaction amongst them; a sentiment of a more serious nature, seems to prevail and authorize the belief that their confidence in us is shaken, if not entirely alienated. Nothing but the most vigorous exertions speedily to supply there wants will remedy the evil likely to result therefrom—and which another season of misery like the past, would render incurable. You may however, rest assured that I will prior to my departure (which I will postpone for a few days in hopes of hearing from you) make every possible arrangement with Lieut. Lawe, to insure you the Indian force you require: to effect which I shall be obliged to adopt some plan for subsisting the families of such as may be prevailed

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<sup>1</sup> Feb. 21, 1815, Dickson wrote from Prairie du Chien to Lieut. John Lawe, of Green Bay: "I am truly astonished at the behaviour of the Messrs. Grignon in withholding the Wheat they had promised to the Government. Captns Bulger and Anderson go to La Baye to sett these Matters to rights, and to meet the Express from Mackinac, & to procuring Gunpowder." (See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi., p. 308).—Ed.