It would be desirable if two months' provisions could be always retained in the Fort, in case of emergencies. The supply of the Garrison not to be interfered with, or any demand on it for the Indians. Great caution & prudent management will be required in not keeping more Indians at Fort McKay, than can be avoided, or circumstances render necessary. The subject will require prompt & immediate consideration: the stay of too many Indians long at your Post. will soon devour the supplies, which will be permanently required for the Garrison. The idea of driving the Bullocks from below the Rock river may be acted upon to advantage. In all supplies furnished from [for] Gover't, its interest must be studied, & the preference given to those who agree to furnish at the cheapest rate. When there is no danger apprehended from the Enemy, you will not be able to feed the *Indians*, without consuming your resources. It will be necessary to retain a supply* sufficient of Tobacco & Gunpowder, with some other goods, which you & Mr. Dickson will arrange accordingly.

*Particularly a reserve of powder in case of a sudden attack.

You will do your utmost to prevent the depredations of the Indians. With regard to the indemnification of those who have already suffered, on passing Green Bay, it will be desirable to devote some hours' to the investigation of the losses sustained there,* but only if it can be done without delaying the boats. You will assemble a Court of Enquiry at Fort McKay, & minutely ascertain the real losses of individuals, cautioning them, that if the demands are moderate, & not exceeding the fair value, I shall do my utmost to obtain remuneration, but any attempt at fraud, or to extort, will prevent a penny being allowed.

*The boats to be hurried on, notwithstanding.

As an agent either has been, or probably will be appointed for the Indians of this district, of course the peculiar station of Mr. Dickson as agent for the Western Indians is amongst them on the Mississippi. As the recent attempt of the enemy to ascend that river may be

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