

post at this place these facilities are entirely destroyed — this point may be considered the true key to the upper country. We guard the only channel of communication, protect our traders, give confidence to those savages favorably disposed, and intimidate and chastise those men who have heretofore not been affected by a distant force. For these reasons, the Saut of St. Mary must be considered a station quite as important as any out post now established, and it is presumed Government will soon realise every advantage expected from the occupation of this position.

The lands around the Saut appear to be susceptible of cultivation. I should think the soil well adapted to wheat & corn.

The white fish taken at these rapids are delicious. Great quantities are caught daily — they are the chief food of the inhabitants.

News was received yesterday of a peace having been concluded between the Sioux and Chippeway nations. It is hoped the information is correct.

We shall leave the Saut this afternoon for Fon du Lac,¹ at which we may expect to arrive in 18 or 20 days.

I am Gentlemen

very respectfully

Your obdt. Servt.

J. D. DOTY.

Messrs. Sheldon & Reed

Detroit.

N. B.—This is written at the request of the Gov., he not having time to address you.

SUNDAY, June 18.

We rose early and embarked, though we were threatened by a thunder storm. On turning the point above our encampment, the Britttish shore at the mouth of the river was N. 70 W. The land appeared very high and mountainous. We steered west across the river, leaving a very deep bay

¹ Meaning the Fond du Lac of Lake Superior.— Ed.