

TO JOSEPH ROLETTE.

FORT MCKAY, 23d Dec., 1814.

SIR.— It is not improbable that had your sending ammunition to the Gens de la Feuille Tiré, not been attended with such lamentable consequences, it might have passed unnoticed, but still the impropriety of the measure would remain the same. It was the occurrence of the fatal accident that first brought the subject before my notice. Until then I knew nothing of your having sent supplies to the Gens de la Feuille Tiré in opposition to Capt. Anderson's orders, and the wishes of the Sioux chief, La Feuille and the Little Corbeau, and it was not till then that I was made acquainted with the circumstances which induced me to order the Court of Enquiry.

It matters not what your motives were in sending supplies to those Indians. If you did it with the consent of the commanding officer, no blame can be attach to you; but on the other hand, if you sent against his wish, or without his consent, most certainly you have been greatly to blame: for it is acting in opposition to, and setting the constituted authorities of the Government at defiance, which, let what will be the plea, or motive, never can be countenanced.

My motive in ordering the Court of Enquiry was to give you an opportunity of saying what you might think necessary in extenuation of your conduct. I might have sent the reports to Mackinac in the form I received them from Capt. Anderson and Deace: but a wish to do you every justice induced me to retain them till the affairs was thoroughly investigated.

Your letter of this date which I suppose I am to consider as your reply to what has been advanced against you shall be forwarded to Mackinac with the proceedings of the Court of Enquiry.

I am, Sir, etc., etc.,

A. BULGER, Capt.,  
Commanding Fort McKay.*To Mr. Rolette.*