

SIR,—It being most impossible for me to get some of the meat, which the Indians bring to this place, I must beg leave to obtain the permission of giving rum to the Indians for that article. You will observe, Rum to be drank out of this place.

My particular reasons to urge such permission is that on the 28th Inst. a good deal of meat was brought to this place & it has been impossible for me to get a pound, not being able to contend with Mr. Dickson in paying [for] that article with goods, and as few days ago I have seen some Indians drunk, in this place. I hope it will be in your power to grant my request.

I remain, with true regard,

Your obedient Servant,

JOSEPH ROLETTE.

*Capt. A. H. Bulger,
Commanding,
Fort McKay.*

30 Dec., 1814.

TO M'DOUALL.

FORT MCKAY, PRAIRIE DU CHIEN,

30th December, 1814.

SIR,—I reached this place on the 30th nov:—From the moment of my departure from Green Bay, until my arrival here I experienced every misery in the power of cold and want to inflict; 'ere I had attained one half of my voyage, my stock of provisions was exhausted. At Green Bay it had been considerably lessened by the demands unavoidably made on it to support Corp. Morins party, and at the time I crossed Lac des Puans,¹ I had not a mouthful left to eat. The little assistance which Mr. Dickson's slender stores enabled him to give, was freely given, but of a kind of food I was but little accustomed to, & which in my weak state of health I could not make use of. I suffered more Sir, during this voyage than you can at all imagine—much more than ever I suffered during the whole course

¹ Lake Winnebago.—Ed.