

Mr. Dickson to explain to them that they were mistaken, that there was a very small quantity of provisions in the stores, prior to the arrival of the schooners and that the uncertainty of receiving further supplies demanded the utmost frugality and economy. I shall take care that Mr. Dickson sends a message to those Indians in time to enable them to be at Mackinac as early as the ice will allow. Orders will be sent at the same time to L^{ts}. Law & Grignon to accompany them. Neither Thomas or Teté de Chien were present at the council, but I saw them both afterwards. The latter is thought to be a worthless fellow & has very little influence over his nation, but Thomas who is here hunting I believe to be a staunch & faithful Indian. What Mr. Dickson intends doing in the spring? whether he will remain here, or go with the Folle-Avoines &c to Mackinac, I know not. I gave him a copy of that part of your instructions which relates to his remaining on the Mississippi. All he said was that His instructions from the commander in Chief left him at liberty to go to whatever place he thought proper. Indeed I every day see a stronger necessity for some fixed & positive instructions being sent respecting him and his department. Those you have already furnished me with leave me much in the dark on many points, and what he has shown me from Sir Geo. Provost seem so full & extensive I could not do otherwise than hesitate 'ere I order anything contrary thereto. Mr. Dickson submitted for my approval the appointment of 2 interpreters, one for the Saulks, the other for the Sioux, which I approved of as there was only one employed for the former nation & two for the latter, and the service requiring 3 for each. In the accounts for fuel and Lodging money I shall send in, you will perceive the names of Capt. Dease & Lt. La Puche, alias St. John.¹ I did not know that either of them belonged to the Indian Department until Mr. Dickson informed me of the circumstance & that you had approved of Capt. Dease receiving pay as a Captain, and of his being at the head of the In-

¹ Styled La Perche, in documents in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi., xii., q. v.—ED.