

open. No sentry Boxes were built. The gate was out of order, the block-houses, and in short everything was unfinished and must remain so for sometime, for there is such difficulty in procuring not only workmen, but material that it will take at the rate we go on now at least 18 months to make the repairs & alterations which are indispensable. Besides the expense will be incalculable — material must be sent from Mackinac, the wood alone can be had here at a high price. The soldiers cannot be sent to provide it, as it would be highly imprudent to send them any distance from the Fort on account of the diff't. bands of Indians in the neighbourhood, some of whom being decidedly in favour of the Americans, might cut off any small party we sent. There is neither magazine or store in the Fort, & the well sunk by the Americans has never been found to answer — You will now see what a situation we should be in, should the Fort be invaded, in reality it never could hold out, and the best thing to be done, if we fail in keeping the Enemy down the rapids — would be to blow up the Fort & make our escape in the best manner we could, for to remain would be only sacrificing the Troops to no purpose. Besides it would give the Enemy the trouble of building another Fort, during which time the Indians, if so inclined, might harass them & perhaps force them to abandon the place altogether.

With respect to the probability of an attack on this place next summer, I am of opinion one will be attempted, and that the Enemy will bring up a large force. An Indian a Sioux who had been a prisoner in St. Louis returned to this place about 10 days ago, & informed us that the Enemy certainly intended another attack on this place & that they would come up by land & by water & would be accompanied by the Indians of the Missouri, who had all gone over to their interests. I shall endeavour to obtain timely notice of their design, so as to make up my mind upon what is best to be done, but whether I shall have it in my power to meet them at the Rock River is a question I cannot answer. You must not be surprised if you hear the want