

of provisions prevented our doing anything. Another difficulty will occur for the want of ammunition for the Indians owing to the small supply sent here this season — it will scarcely enable the Indian to support his family the winter, & by the spring I expect neither the Sauks or any others will have a charge of powder left, of this circumstance the Enemy may receive information thro' some of the disaffected Indians, of which there are a good number, and avail himself thereof to attempt ascending the river. Should I take down the whole of my force (and it is so small I cannot think of dividing it) This Fort will remain without any but militia to defend it, and would should the Enemy force his way up the rapids, (which I find is not quite as difficult as has been stated) fall an easy conquest. For should they pass us there, it will be impossible for us to get to the Fort before him.

With respect to the regular payments of the troops. I thought I should have been able to effect it thro' Mr. Rollette, he agreed to issue his Bons¹ on condition that the men should lay them out at his store & not as they pleased. I thought this so very unjust, that I immediately decided upon having nothing to do with him or his. The only possible method I could devise to pay the men was by Govt Bons (a form of which is enclosed) & as the Pay Lists & vouchers will always be sent to Mackinac 'ere the Bons or Bills reach there, there cannot I think be any objection to continuing this mode of payment. Whatever purchases are made for Gov't here will in the first instance be paid for by Bons, the vouchers properly receipted & certified, will be forwarded to Mackinac, which will enable Mr. Monk² to answer the Bills that may be drawn.

I shall send by this express the Lodging money returns from 25 June to 24 Dec. also the Fuel Returns up to the same period, all signed & certified, with sundry vouchers, all of which will I hope meet with your approbation.

¹ Notes of hand. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xi., pp. 274, 275, for fac-similes of paper money (familiarily styled *bons*, or "goods") issued by the British authorities in Canada, in 1812-15.—Ed.

² G. H. Monk, deputy assistant commissary-general at Mackinac.—Ed.