

filling his pockets with Govt. money, he signed an agreement which he now finds himself unable to fulfil. Mr. Rolette has represented to me that, notwithstanding all his efforts he is hopeless from disappointments in every quarter of being able to fulfil the terms of his contract & that it will be as much as he can do to furnish the Garrison until the last of April or beginning of May. I believe however (much as I have cause to find fault with him for deceiving you on a subject of such importance) that he has done his best & spared no expence or trouble to complete his contract, indeed his anxiety on that head led him, contrary to orders, to send supplies to the disaffected Band of Sioux called the Gens de la Feuille Tiré.

Mr. Rolette asked me whether Govt. on being convinced he had done his utmost to fulfil the contract, would remit the penalty under which he was bound. And that if I thought so, he would still go on, and fulfil it as far as was in his power, but that if I thought the penalty would not be remitted, unless he abided by the strict terms of his agreement vez: to furnish a years Provisions, that it would be better for him to give it up at once and pay the penalty rather than go on increasing expences, & have to pay it in the end. I told him it was not in my power to give any decisive answer on the subject, but that I thought Govt. would act generously towards him, and that if it appeared that the failure in the terms of the contract was not owing to any want of expence or exertion on his part, but rather to the deficiency of resources in the Country, I was convinced Govt. would not deal hardly towards him, as it would have been ruination to us had he stopped furnishing the Garrison at this time of year. I desired him to persevere in his endeavors to fulfil his agreement & that I would represent his case to you.

I trust Sir, you will now be convinced of the impossibility of keeping a post here without assistance from Mackinac. This country cannot support a Garrison & those who told you otherwise are actuated by interested motives. We have not at this moment an ounce of flour or meat in the