

store, nor have we the least prospect of getting any. Provisions are so very scarce here, that the officers of the Indian Department get no rations, and we are very often a fortnight without tasting meat of any kind. The only thing the Inhabitants have is a little flour, which they will not sell. They keep it to exchange for such other articles of food & clothing they may want. If I were to offer 20 Dols for a cwt. of flour, I do not think it could be got, for money is of no use to the inhabitants, as they can get nothing for it.

In justice to myself I must also inform you that the Michigans are not the soldiers we ought to have here if we mean to retain the post. I would rather have 40 Regular soldiers than 100 of such men as the Michigans. The Indians to see the difference between them and Regulars. They in fact look upon them with contempt, having known them as voyageurs, they never can look upon them in the light of British soldiers.

The Blank Parchment commissions which you sent out by Mr. Dickson have not yet been given out. From the manner in which they are worded, they do not appear to me to be intended for Indians. I have therefore desired Mr. D. to keep them by him until I hear from you on the subject.

In consequence of the uniform zeal & activity shown by Interpreter Jos. Renville of the Indian Department in the various services in which he has been employed, & especially since my arrival here, I have approved of his being appointed a Lieut. in that Dept. from the 25 Inst. until your pleasure be known thereon.

As there was no possibility of carrying on the service without a commiss'y, I have appointed Lt Pullman of the M. F. to act as commiss'y & Barrack-Master until your approbation be known, or a regular comm'y appointed, and promised that I would recommend his being allowed 5 s p. day during the period he performs those duties.

As it is my wish that you should be made acquainted with everything I do here in my public capacity, I shall have the honor to enclose you copies of all letters to and