

FORT MCKAY, 31st Decem^r 1814.

SIR:—I am sorry to have to report to you an unfortunate occurrence which has recently taken place here a short time ago. On the 8th inst, Two men, whom Mr. Rolette had sent to the camp of Les Gens de la Feuille Tiré,¹ for meat, were returning to this place, accompanied by an Indian of that band, who taking advantage when the two men had lain down to sleep, seized their arms fired at them and fled. One of the men lived about 3 hours; the other, who was Mr. Rolette's brother-in-law, contrived to reach this place after walking about 24 miles. He had been shot through the lower part of the body and died on the fourth day after enduring a great deal of pain.

As this was the first insult offered since a British Garrison had been here, and by a dastartly set who had been publicly declared Americans. I thought it necessary that some steps should be taken to convince them that we were determined to punish their infamous conduct, as well as to show the other nations that such an atrocious act would not remain unpunished. I accordingly on the 12th detached a party of about eighty men of the Michigans, Volunteers, & Militia, and about a dozen Fellesavoine Indians, with several officers of the Indian Department to the camp of Les Gens de la Feuille tiré in search of the murderer. They returned on the 15th inst. without him, he had fled almost immediately to another part of the country, fearing that death which he knew he deserved. According to his orders, Capt. Graham, who had charge of the party, brought in the chief of the Band, as a hostage for the delivery of the murderer. I have got the chief confined in the Fort, his friends & relations are now busy searching for the murderer, & according to their custom, will, in all probability, soon appear here with him or his head.

¹ La Feuille Tiré (Fire-leaf) was the French designation of the Sioux chief, Wabasha, whose village was on the Mississippi, on the site of the modern city of Winona, Minn. This Wabasha was the son of the chief of the same name who assisted the British in the Revolutionary War, and probably father of the one who figured in the Black Hawk War.—Ed.