

been particularly busy in the business. I cannot say whether it was with M D——'s knowledge, or whether it originated with that crowd of parasites & flatterers he has round him; but as for myself, I should be ashamed to allow any one under me to try to extort a thing of the kind. I am informed Mr. D——'s foolish vanity will not allow him to acknowledge that he is under my command, or indeed any military officer—and that he wishes to make the people believe that he has the Supreme command here, & that I am under him, it was this that induced me to reject the address. But another has been this day presented to me alone, a copy of which I enclose, with my answer thereto. I hope my conduct in this trifling affair will meet with your approbation. Were I personally concerned, I would not envy Mr. Dickson all the addresses he could *extort* between this & the Rocky Mountains. But it is an affront to the Com'g Officer, and not to myself, that I have resented.

Since my letter of 30th Dec. the Contractor has delivered into store, flour sufficient for the Garrison to April—the meat is what we shall fail in, being almost convinced that it will not be got. The contractor has tired me with complaints & representations respecting Mr. Dickson, who, he says, prevents his getting meat, by giving the Indians goods for all they have. I know to my certain knowledge that meat has been brought in here by the Indians but twice, & Mr. Dickson has positively declared to me that he never gave an article of goods for meat. I therefore think the Contractor complaints are groundless, and merely advanced to give him some sort of an excuse for the non-fulfilment of his contract.

I should feel much obliged if you could procure me a map of this country, if one can be had in Mackinac.

The information given in my Letter of the 30th Decr. respecting the Americans coming up here in the spring, has been this day confirmed by a Sock¹ who made his escape from the Missouri—he also reports that the Pottawat-

¹Sac.—ED.