

we could not depend on a single man to assist us in the spring, and you are well aware that the safty of the country hangs on their fadility and attachment. The unusal concourse of Indians here were owing to the late arrival of their presents. Not to have fed them, sparing as I did, would have involved us all in ruin. I have had recourse to every measure in my power, to procure a supply of provisions, and I trust that I will be successful when the river is open. The Indians will be then much more able to provide for themselves.

Y'r Ob't Ser't

R. D.

*Capt<sup>n</sup> Bulger,  
Commanding Fort McKay,  
& on the Mississippi.*

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TO DICKSON.

FORT MCKAY, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1815

SIR.—I do not wish to enter into a long correspondence being afflicted with a disease of the eyes which renders writing extremely painful and distressing to me.

I have read your letter with all the attention due to it. You say that you asked my approval for the purchase of the corn from Mr. Brisbois, and that I granted it. Can you sir, say that I gave permission for eighty-four Bushels of corn being purchased from him, or was it only twice, or thrice, that you mentioned to me your intention of getting some from him.

Would it not be nearer the fact if you said that immediately on your arrival here without mentioning the circumstance to me you engaged 80 bushels of corn from Mr. Brisbois which would have been more properly deposited in the store for the emergencies of Spring, and would undoubtedly have been so, if you had not bespoken it before hand.

This was an authority you had no right to assume, where a military officer commanded. I, as commanding officer here, have the sole control and direction not only of the