

ing, the other is of vital importance and does not admit of a remedy. I know very little of the nature of Indians, but it is consonant to reason to suppose that if they were told that the fate of their country hung by a shred, they would suffer every hardship and privation rather than endanger its being severed.

I requested in my last letter that no purchase might be made for the Indian Department without my knowledge, and you wished to be informed if this prohibition extends to the whole line of country over which you are superintendent. Really Sir, I know not that you are Superintendent of this Country. I only know you as agent and Superintendent of the Western Indians; but I shall be glad to be better informed on this subject. You certainly assume as much as if you were Sovereign over it. My prohibition Sir, extends only to the command with which I am invested, and which comprehends Green Bay, Prairie du Chien and all the settlements on the Mississippi.

It is not possible that you Sir can feel more mortified in being reproached with want of consideration, than I have felt grieved in being obliged to advance such a charge. I was proud of your friendship, and expected it would prove a source of pleasure, and satisfaction to me, but much as I may value it, and regret its loss, it has not power to sway me from the path of duty.

In putting a stop to measures which I thought pregnant with danger to the Country, I have only fulfilled the confidence reposed in me. I have merely done my duty, and if unfortunately my exertions should ultimately prove unavailing it will at least be a satisfaction to me to be able to say that I have done my best, as far as my weak abilities would allow to advance the interest of my King and Country.

What is past cannot be recalled, but the future may be attended with more advantage to the service and satisfaction to ourselves by an immediate explanation taking place. One question is *all* I shall ask, first. Do you, or do you not, recognize my authority as Commanding officer of Fort