

him to administer to the wants of the Indians of his neighborhood, according to their necessities, and the means which may be at his disposal; & particularly to the families of such as may repair to this Island in the Spring. I added that I would authorize the expence. I trust that this will in some measure alleviate the evil and encourage the settlers to grow more corn. To expect relief from this place as to the articles of food is totally out of the question, as it is a doubtful point with Govt whether it will be in their power to supply this Garrison, owing to its increased numbers, & particularly if the re-enforcement of a hundred men (which I have asked for as indispensably necessary) can be sent. As to similar losses, sustained at Prairie des Chiens, you will have to transmit another such statement of the same, which I shall also transmit to His Excellency, strongly urging the necessity of a liberal remuneration.

As to the inadequacy of the Indian supplies, it is one of the many trying difficulties with which we shall both have to struggle. I know well that the goods which Gov't were so perplexed in getting up, & which, considering the obstacles in the way, we were lucky in receiving, could not (in consequence of the want of Traders) supply the tenth part of the numerous tribes who have claims upon us. In such a cruel emergency, what was to be done, but to apportion them in such a way, as to give all a share, & be most conducive to our general interests. So fully was I convinced of the necessity of straining every nerve to support the Indians, of the Mississippi, that I set apart for them, more than most men in my situation would have ventured to do: & to do which, I was obliged to curtail the usual allowance of ammunition for the Tribes of this neighborhood, *besides withholding the cloathing which they invariably received on the approach of winter*, thereby running the risque of adding to the existing discontent, & jealousy with which the Ottawas. and Chippeways viewed Mr. Dickson's partiality for the Western Indians, which had attained to such a length that Capt'n Askin can prove that