

ply ourselves,—most puzzling and difficult are our situations. Should our vessels fortunately arrive with a good supply, I must, if it can possibly be spared, & conveyed, endeavor to send you some Pork to Green Bay, altho' it is a most cruel and unlooked for emergency. Mr. Dickson himself, repeatedly told me last summer that we might expect to be assisted *here from Green Bay* with a hundred barrels of flour, instead of our being obliged to send supplies in that direction. After this statement, you will less wonder at the resources of that country & the Mississippi being overrated to me, from other quarters.

The fact is, my Dear Bulger, that the conviction was, and is so strong on my mind, as to the irreparable & overwhelming evils, which our evacuation of the country, & abandoning the Indians would occasion, that I was constrained to give some credit to these accounts & to try the experiment of a small Garrison, around which they might rally, & be encouraged, directed & *led on* by it against the common Enemy. The failure of our hopes on that respect will not, in prudence, honor, or sound policy, justify our withdrawing from the country; in my several letters, there is a good deal of tautology on this subject, but it shows how strongly I am impressed with the truth of this opinion. You have with you some active able officers; even with their assistance alone, in organizing, uniting and inspiring the Indians, it will be scarcely possible for the Enemy (pressed on every side, & particularly on the Mississippi) to establish himself at such a distance from support.

Turn, therefore, all your attention, to the most prudent and judicious management of your precarious resources. I dread the mischiefs which will result from the total want of economy, from the invariable havoc & waste made by that Timon of Athens—Dickson. The *whole* arrangements as to provisions must center in you, & no purchases made by any other authority. Try if all the volunteers can be struck off from receiving rations; the actual value of which might be allowed them, by the Acting Commissarys' re-