

FROM M'DOUALL.

MICHILIMACKINAC, 25<sup>th</sup> Feby. 1815.

SIR,—Upon the subject of Mr. Rolette's conduct, & taking into consideration the difficulty's which he has had to surmount, particularly the malicious persecution of Mr. Dickson, I am inclined to shew him every reasonable indulgence. It will be of the utmost consequence that his zeal & exertions to supply you with Provisions, should by every encouragement, be stimulated & encreased, rather than it should abate. For these reasons, I empower you to grant him such relief, & so to alter and modify the contract, even to the granting him an increased price, as it may appear to you, that his zeal to fulfil it, & the necessity of the case requires.

As the Indian Department is now under your orders, which you will see the necessity of strictly enforcing, I rely on your prudence & judgment for taking such steps as will prevent any extravagance, or waste on their part as to provisions. Had I given the rein to Mr. Dickson's improvidence, when here, Mr. Monk assures me we should now have been without provisions, & exposed to the horrors of famine. Think of every possible method of encreasing your supplies, & diminishing your consumption, & let no improper obstacle be thrown in Mr. Rolette's way; he writes positively that but for Mr. Dickson opposing him by giving Indian Goods, & most extravagant prices for the provisions bought in, that he could easily have fulfilled his contract. It is so much in Mr. Dickson's way that I am inclined to believe it. Inform me if it be so, and take the most decided measures to stop so improper and mischievous a traffic.

I have read the proceedings of the court of Enquiry upon Mr. Dickson's charges against Mr. Rolette, with equal astonishment & indignation. A more vile or iniquitous conspiracy against the life of an individual I have scarcely ever heard of. I am highly obliged to you for your able & patient investigation of charges which appear to me equally