

demanded the collars which the American agent Monsieur Dodge<sup>39</sup> has kept. Since this is really a procedure not at all in keeping with the perfect harmony that ought to reign between us, I have reported the matter to Monsieur Polok, who, disapproving the act, writes on this occasion an order to the effect that the six said collars be surrendered to Your Grace. Your

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<sup>39</sup> After the defeat of De la Balme, in the autumn of 1780, the remaining inhabitants of Vincennes, and those of Ouiatanon who had retired to the former place, addressed a petition to Governor Cruzat at St. Louis, detailing their sad situation, and assuring him they would be obliged to abandon their post unless they obtained aid; since all the Indians, lured by English presents, had abandoned them and were daily attacking them. They describe themselves as "good citizens of France" and appeal to Cruzat as the ally of that power to send them ammunition and merchandise to subsidize the Indians. The petition is signed by twenty-eight prominent French habitants, some of whom had aided Clark in 1778-79. Cruzat replied Dec. 15, 1780, expressing much sympathy for their grievous situation, but assuring them that he considers them subjects of the United States by right of conquest, and that they must apply to their superiors at the Illinois, with whom he will gladly work in concert for their preservation and aid. The original MS. of this petition and the reply are in the Bancroft collection, University of California. A facsimile has kindly been furnished us by Prof. C. W. Alvord of the University of Illinois.—Ep.

John Dodge was a native of Connecticut (about 1749) and came West as a trader in 1770, settling at the Wyandot villages near Sandusky, where he acquired much influence over the tribesmen. On the outbreak of the Revolution, he sympathized with the States, and was influential in securing Indian neutrality, attending by request the Pittsburgh treaty of 1775. Early in 1776 he was arrested by order of Governor Hamilton, kept prisoner at Detroit, and finally sent down to Quebec. Thence he escaped in 1778, and upon visiting Congress secured therefrom a grant of land in requital of his losses. He also called on Jefferson, and secured the appointment of Indian agent for the Illinois. Once returned to the Western country he carried out his measures in an arbitrary manner; finally (1782) seizing and holding the fort that dominated Kaskaskia. In 1787, finding his influence waning, he retired to Ste. Geneviève, on the Spanish side of the river, where in 1794 he died. He was an uncle of Gov. Henry Dodge of Wisconsin Territory.—Ep.