

MR. ASKIN TO MR. CLAUS.

(Indians.)

MICHILIMACKINAC

24th January 1813

DEAR SIR,

On the 9th Nov. last, I stated that the time for sending Couriers from this to Lake Superior would be about the middle of this month, but the season having been unfavourable so much so as to prevent the crossing from the Island to the main land impossible, we have been surrounded by floating ice for a length of time past, & its only two days that the crossing has been strong enough, therefore in a few days I will send to that Quarter. As to the different Tribes about the borders of Lake Michigan & this I intend to retard sending to them before I hear from you as well as those of Green Bay Millwahkee Priri du Chien & Sauks village for should they be required at Amherstburg its much nearer to those places than making their circuit. Busbois is the Waynebaggo Interpreter & Dr. Perrin the Sauk Intr they ret'd from Detroit in Novr last wt Langlade—as the former young men are good walkers & born in that Country I intend to send them to collect the Tribes they belong to, the moment I hear from you—Those Indians along Lake Huron from Matchidush to La Cloche will be desired to repair to such place you may wish them, thro' Shawgayshe who goes with the Dispatches, for that purpose it will be necessary that you order some wampum to be given him so that he may make a speech & deliver the same to the different chiefs as he passes on his return to this.

Per this opportunity I transmit to Ass. Sur Cameron the requisition for Stores & stationery for 1814. It is unnecessary I presume to state the reason of its being augmented—The supplies required in time of war must be greater than those of the peace established. The quantity of Guns required (tho' great) appears to me to be insufficient to meet the demands. it is well known that the Indians inhabiting the interior of the country always have the guns of their deceased Relations deposited in their Graves which deprives the rising Generation from benefiting by them & Indians do not by any means take that care of fire arms which the whites do to preserve them—None of the Guns which were forwarded for this by your order last Spring came to hand they were all retained at Amherstburg & Issued to the Indians of that District—The Guns & Rifles sent from the General store at La Chine last Autumn amounts to 133—which is'nt sufficient to arm those who are destitute of Weapons & unless a supply is sent in the Spring every old shattered fusee that can be found will be put into requisition again. At the capture of this place we found 43 Spanish Fusees in the Indian Store

which were issued to the Indians & the quality so bad that I firmly believe there isnt ten now in their possession the rest having burst & numbers of them have been wounded in consequence thereof.

Previous to Mr R. Dicksons leaving this for Lower Canada he applied for a supply of Goods & Ammunition to be sent to the Sauk & Ayanway Indians under the charge of some person he wished to name & that person to make the distribution in the two Villages, the amount of the expenses & goods to be sent estimated by him were from £800 £1000 Hx. Curry. but the Commanding Officer being apprehensive that he wasn't authorized to depart from the established rules declined to acquiesce to Mr D. proposal and for my part I could not interfere as the command Officer was the person who Mr D. had applied to & who had martial Law proclaimed some time previous to that period. It appears to me that Mr Dickson was much displeased as his wishes were not complied with. We haven't had any News or Intelligence whatever from Green Bay or any place else & have been shut up from every communication since Novr last & am

Dear Sir

Your most obedt
very huml Servt.

(signed)

JNO. ASKIN

The Honorable William Claus Esq.
Depy. Supt. Gen. I. Affairs
Fort George

[M. G. XI.]