

I shall cheerfully ~~wait~~ until then I beg you will excuse me for non-  
attendance  
To the President & Members  
of a Court of Enquiry

203

1138 Pentton

On the receipt of above note by the Court, I am credibly  
informed that the President laughed heartily & cried out I am  
glad the fellow has given his reasons in writing for by it he has com-  
pletely de-m. n. d. himself take notice Gentlemen that it is a con-  
tempt to the Court & disobedience to my Orders take it down directly  
& make that a charge likewise. This as well as his having said  
in the presence of a Gentleman of unquestionable veracity holding  
his Majesty's commission who when necessary will depose on oath  
that on or about the month of November last Capt. Dawson told  
him that if Ashlin would only get him one hundred & fifty Mo-  
cockes of Sugar he would not care what he did as ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Rapier~~ <sup>Rapier</sup>  
Interpreter & at another time in his presence Capt. Dawson  
told ~~him~~ <sup>him</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> would be a de-m. n. f. d. if he withdrew  
the charges preferred for it would be the very means of Resping  
Ashlin in ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~presence~~ <sup>presence</sup> of thereby both get presents from Indians.  
From the situation this Gentleman is at present placed being under  
the immediate command of the malicious Commandant I am not  
at liberty to mention his name but whenever it will be deemed  
necessary to investigate this business I then will have him brought  
forward.

You must naturally conclude from what I have mentioned  
that the Indian Affairs here are in a very confused state Mr.  
Shepard being employed as Interpreter & his advice asked on all occasions  
& attended to is more than ever countenanced by Capt. Dawson, he  
~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> continually haranguing the Indians, keeps trading &  
detaching my character from them as much as he possibly can.  
You are a Judge of the consequences of such conduct & more par-  
ticularly at the present, when the American Government are using  
every influence they are possessed of to get the good will of the Indians  
who frequent this post. I have now as nearly as at present in  
my power given you an account of the Commandant's unbecoming  
& independent conduct towards me & sincerely trust that  
when matters are investigated, the whole of the charges brought against  
me by these Malicious People, will appear in their proper light.

I have further to add that should it not please  
His Excellency Lieut Gov. Gore to order that I continue my situa-  
tion at this post as ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Rapier~~ <sup>Rapier</sup> & Interpreter until my conduct is  
examined. It will be highly necessary for the Gov. of Indian  
Affairs in this country that some person be sent here as soon as  
possible to take charge of that Department.

I beg you will lay my letter & documents before the Deputy  
Adjutant Genl. without loss of time & should he be absent you  
see the necessity of laying the same before His Excellency Lieut Gov.  
Gore in order that the necessary steps may be taken & that

my son who is the Beaver head of my return without loss of time  
as the season is far advanced & my apprehensions will meet with great  
difficulty in returning I am

1139.

204

Dear Sir  
Yours most Obedt. Servt  
Jm. Ashlin

Wm. Pridmore Esq  
Secy. Indian Affairs  
York