

Platte River and this is but half way and it is necessary to reach the place of Destination a sufficient time before the 1st Nov to make provision for the winter as about that time a great part of the Indians from whom supplies might be had as well as the greater part of the Birds and Beasts leave the country for southern quarters and the fish leave the River for the Sea, and a party so composed and so large will call for all the exertions of all the men attached to them, and then leave much undone that might conduce to the comfort of the party, and in this way it will be at least a year, and I fear longer, before we shall get any time to devote to the purposes for which we go out viz. making money, and for this they offer only the poor advantage of 200 acres of land, which is hardly a quid pro quo, beside which there is some danger that they may get into so much difficulty as to be obliged to return, which would be an entire defeat of our enterprise, for it would be hard to get men to travel over the same ground twice. It is quite as much as I can do to get good men the first time and after one failure it will not be possible to get them to start again.

These considerations have induced me to delay entering into any agreement with them until the last moment, and not then unless I am better satisfied with their arrangement than I am now. If the advantages appertaining to the Society can be obtained without a material sacrifice of my own objects I will join them but not otherwise.

My plan (in which I have proceeded so far as to raise 26 men) is to raise 50 men to go out to that country so early as to leave St. Louis on the 1st May 1832 for the purpose of following the trade of that country in all its branches for which we deem ourselves competent. Many of these men are manufacturers in the various branches of iron work manufacturing of arms and ammunition and a few to cultivate such articles as are of use to ourselves and in the Indian trade such for instance as tobacco. The proceeds of the exertions of these men are to be divided into 50 equal parts, 2 of which are to belong to Jacob if he goes out as surgeon or to whoever is surgeon 8 to myself and 40 to the 48 remaining men or at the same ratios for a different number of men. I am to furnish all the camp equipage and trading articles necessary for our first outfit to the extent of 5000\$, and to procure credit for the Co. for a vessel and an Invoice of trading articles to be ordered to that country when a quantity of avails sufficient to secure the payment for the same has been collected. The first disbursement of 5000\$ as well as the freight and cost of articles sent out and all other disbursements of every description are to be deducted from the gross proceeds before the division mentioned above in other words for furnishing the use of 5000\$ in cash, and the required credit for vessel and Invoice of articles for which I have the goods to pledge I am to have the exertions of 7 men beside myself. This though