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Pravieville Sept. 9. 1840.

Dear Brother

There seems to be no great need of my writing now for there is nothing new here and if there was Starr could tell it. I am glad to hear that you talk of coming up here this fall and hope you will. I have got my falls work pretty well done up except cutting wood. That I shall put off until I see whether the Indians are going to sell this fall. 11

Mr. Riggs wrote to be by McLeod that he had sent down by McS. the prospectus of a Sioux Dictionary to be circulated by McLeod.

The book is to consist of two parts Sioux & English English and Sioux and to be accompanied by a Grammar. The first part is to contain 15,000 Sioux words. The work is to be commenced when \$500 are subscribed and half of it paid and each subscriber is to receive a well bound volume copy for 250. It

Mr. R. proposes to have me undertake the work with him. The Dr. says that it will cost at least \$5 per copy and he is probably correct. He wished to have me send word to you to tell McLeod not to circulate the prospectus. You will of course do as you please about that Mr. Riggs says. "In default of the

action of the mission and all others declining
the work I shall consider myself committed
to it that is if the conditions of the subscription
paper are fulfilled. I have no idea that 5 or
dollars will be subscribed and hope for Mr. R.
sake that it will not be I was very sorry to hear
of the Drs. difficulty with McLean. I suppose
then Dr. is rather looked upon as the head
and representative of the mission and though
he has been treated meanly I think the course
he has taken is likely to injure us in the es-
timation of the powers that be.

It seems to me probable that the traders will
carry their point in all matters of dispute
between them and us and I should not be
surprised if missionaries should for a time be
even more unpopular with the Sioux than they
ever have been. There was never a time since we
have been in the country when missionaries had less
influence with the Indian than now and I can
see no prospect of any improvement at present.
I have been thinking of visiting you but perhaps
I shall not before October. If Nell runs off as
she did last fall I shall try to take the cold
down by the first of Oct. I hope ~~was~~ you will
come up before that time if you can.

Your affectionate brother

J. W. Ford.

J. W. Ford
Oak Grove.