

GEORGE BONGA'S 1866 LETTER TO BO BASSETT

N. B. Bassett Esqr
Respected Sir

Leech Lake August 29th 1866

As Mr Whitehead expects to see you I thought I would drop you a line to let you know, that your kindness to us, while you was in our midst, has & I believe will always occupy much of my thoughts--

I have nothing worth your attention to write about. The Inds seems a little more feisty then they were, the first part of the Summer-- But this I have expected all along, for it is the character of the Inds, when he thinks (real or imaginary) that his rights are encroached upon--

I am really sorry to have to say that I have lost all hopes, in Major Clark, to act the part of a good Agent. It seems to me that he is so much under the yoke of there traders, that is impossible for him to act, as he would wish. Respected Sir, I have requested Mr Whitehead to call on a friend of mine & get his assistance if he can, for my 2 Sons to get lisenace to trade. James for this place, Peter at Red Lake or wherever the Red Lake Inds will be paid--any advice or opinion you could give Mr W. in the Matter, I should certainly feel thankful to you for the trouble I would give you--Whenever any thing occurs worth your Notice I will write you. I am fully convinced that your charatible heart aches for us all, who are under the tyranny of the Agent, threu the Selfishness & raciality of a Set of traders--Respected Sir, Hoping that the Great Spirit will So guide our ways, that we May Meet again & have another good Camp fire talk as I call it

With Sentments of the Most Sincere respect I remain Yours &c

G. Bonga