

Sibley's Order from Camp Release

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY EXPEDITION

Camp Release, Oct. 14, 1862

Capt. J. C. Whitney

Commanding Detachment at Yellow Medicine

SIR: I have received your dispatch of today with accompanying papers. Your proceeding, as expected, in carrying out my orders was well taken and judicious, and I feel gratified that your success was so complete. In order to enable you to guard your prisoners perfectly for the few days required for preparation for their removal, I have ordered Captain Wilson's company, under command of Lieutenant Parker, to proceed tonight to reinforce you. He will report to you for orders, and I desire that you will keep a strong guard over the prisoners so as to avoid any danger of the escape of any of them. They will have to be secured with irons around the leg, two together, as I have done here. I have now one hundred and one men fixed in that way, who I shall send down shortly under a guard to join those that you have in confinement, and then dispatch the whole to Fort Snelling. It is probable that there are some innocent men among the prisoners in both camps, especially among our own; but it is impossible to winnow them out now, and they all must be taken down together.

The Indians, men, women, and children, must be principally fed on corn and potatoes, although I do not object to their receiving fresh beef twice a week when it can be obtained. Our own supplies are too scant to enable us to be very liberal on that score. You and Major Galbraith will please collect what trace chains and suitable iron rods can be found, with a view to the extra security of the prisoners against escape. I have addressed an official communication to Major Galbraith of this date. You will forbid the men released from custody from straying away from the camp.

I am, Captain, very respectfully,

H. H. Sibley

Brigadier General, Commanding

This order, like all those in the book, is a copy of the original.