 Regulations for the Indian Department printed at Detroit in 1814, by Theophilus Mettez, at the direction of Lewis Cass. Reproduced in collotype by the Meriden Gravure Company from the copy owned by the William L. Clements Library.

The tendency of bibliographers to ignore broadsides, or to dismiss them airily, is deplorable. Bookmen seldom know how common certain broadsides are because their whereabouts are unrecorded, and scholars sometimes remain in ignorance of important information because broadsides are frequently not listed. A bibliographer wrote recently, “The years 1814 to 1817 produced but few items, mostly broadsides or matters of limited local interest.” Yet it was in this very period that the Regulations for the Indian Department was issued!

Printing in Detroit from 1796 to 1820 has not yet received the comprehensive bibliographical study it deserves. The picture is still foggy. Roughly, here is what we see. Some time before 1796, perhaps as early as 1785, a printing press was brought to Detroit. The original owner may have been unable
to set up and operate the press, for there is no evidence that anything was printed in Detroit before 1796. In that year, John M'Call ran off An Act Passed at the First Session of the Fourth Congress of the United States. . . . (A facsimile by the Meriden Gravure Company was printed for the Detroit Public Library in 1946.) This was followed by a number of receipts and legal forms, such as writs, warrants, etc. These also may have been printed by M'Call between 1796 and 1800. My friend F. Clever Bald has pointed out that in 1800, John May, a Detroit merchant, paid transportation costs on a press and types sent from Detroit to Sylvester Tiffany of Niagara, Upper Canada. Presumably, this was the press used by John M'Call for his Act printed in 1796.

If the press shipped out of Detroit by John May was the press used by M'Call, there probably was no printing press in operation in Detroit until 1809. The legal forms dated in manuscript between 1800 and 1809 were simply “old stock.” In the latter year, that remarkable individual, Father Gabriel Richard, brought a printing press and a font of type to Detroit. Michigan printing then began in earnest. Father Richard was a man with peculiar problems. His most troublesome difficulty was in connection with the schools he intended to establish. Books were needed and books of the kinds Father Richard wanted did not exist. In fact, Detroit was almost bookless after the disastrous fire of 1805.

Father Richard believed that his community needed a printing press, so he secured one for the good of Detroit. He hired James M. Miller as his first printer, and probably supplied copy for the first dated production of the press, The Child's Spelling Book, 1809. Miller lasted about a year. He was succeeded by Aaron Coxshaw, who worked the press until the end of 1811. Both Miller and Coxshaw seem to have called on Theophilus Mettez for assistance. Mettez was a kind of town crier who shouted the news on Sundays from the steps of Ste. Anne's Church. After Coxshaw gave up the press, Mettez took over and continued operations until 1816; then he, too, gave up printing. He retired to the country to farm and to bind books. Mettez was apparently the first locally trained printer.

The broadside reproduced herewith was printed by Mettez in 1814 at the direction of Lewis Cass. [There is some doubt that it should be considered a broadside, for, although it is printed on one side of a single sheet, the format is such that it is more conveniently handled as a quarto leaflet, i.e., pages 1 and 4 blank, text on pages 2 and 3.] The type page of the Clements Library copy measures 6⅛ by 9 inches. The paper (measuring 16 by 9¾ inches) is a contemporary wove paper of good quality. There is no watermark. The broadside (or leaflet) is neither listed nor described in the Preliminary Check List of Michigan Imprints (1942), nor by Floyd B. Streeter, Douglas C. McMurtrie, or Dr. Norman E. Clarke in their bibliographies.

III
Regulations for the Indian Department is one segment of the story of Lewis Cass' constant interest in the American Indians. Just five years after the Treaty of Greenville, 1795, was signed, Jonathan Cass (father of the eighteen-year-old Lewis) and his family arrived at Marietta, Ohio, preparatory to settling on lands of their own about one hundred miles up the Muskingum River. The woods were full of Indians then and they fascinated the young Cass. He started his Indian researches early and continued them late. In the Cass Papers at the Clements Library, there are many references to Indian studies in the letters and there are several autograph manuscripts of articles and speeches about the Indians.

My friend Frank B. Woodford has pointed out that as governor of Michigan Territory, Cass “was also ex-officio superintendent of Indian affairs, not only for Michi-

FACSIMILE

REGULATIONS for the Indian Department.

I PRESENTS Purchased in Detroit.

1. Presents will be given to the Indians by the Governor or in his absence in such a manner as he shall point out.

2. They will be purchased by one of the Agents on a warrant signed by the Governor & countersigned by the Secretary.

3. They will be Purchased at such stores as may have been previously selected by the Governor on the report of the Secretary & Agents at which they can be procured upon the most reasonable terms.

4. At the end of every month, the Secretary will collect from the stores their respective accounts, & will charge to each Agent the amount, for which he may have drawn goods during that month.

5. The goods obtained in the manner above mentioned will be distributed by the Agent, who procures them to the Indian named in the warrant.

6. Goods shall be distributed by the Agents in the presence of two respectable Citizens.

7. The Certificate of two respectable Citizens will be a voucher to the Agent for the delivery of goods.
8. At the end of every month, each Agent shall produce to the Secretary his warrants for the purchase & his receipts for the delivery of goods.

9. The Agents shall be credited for the amount, for which they produce warrants & vouchers.

10. The account when thus stated shall be submitted to the Governor, & if found correct, it shall be closed.

II. PRESENTS forwarded to this places

1. Presents of this description when sent here shall be received by one of the Agents, who shall be so directed by the Governor.

2. They shall be immediately examined by the Secretary & Agents & compared with the Invoices.

3. The Agent directed to receive them shall be charged by the Secretary with the quantity he shall receive.

4. After this, they shall be drawn from the store, distributed & accounted for in the manner pointed out in the preceding article.

III. ANNUITIES.

1. Annuities when forwarded or purchased here will be distributed in bulk by the Secretary & Agents in the presence of three or more respectable Citizens upon the order of the Governor.

2. If purchased here, the purchase will be made as near as may be in conformity with the first article, and if forwarded here, they will be re'd & accounted for as in the second article.

IV. The Duty of AGENTS.

1. It is the duty of the Agents to receive all Indians belonging to the tribes under their respective care as they arrive, to procure from them all possible information, to take care they have provisions issued to them, to make any applications they may wish to the Governor & to report to him any occurrence which happens & any information they procure in the Department.

2. The Agents will superintend every expedition fitted out, they will see that it is furnished with the necessary articles, and when directed will procure expresses.
3. They will also endeavour to discover whether any persons are in the habit of communicating to the Indians false information or of attempting to prejudice them against our Govt. If any are discovered their names will be reported to the Governor, in order that immediate prosecutions may be commenced against them.

V The Duty of INTERPRETERS.

1. Interpreters will hold themselves in readiness to proceed to any quarter, to which they may be directed.

2. They will endeavour to procure all the information in their power from any Indians who may arrive, & will report it to one of the Agents. They will use their exertions to prevent & to detect any selling of whiskey to Indians, & in case they discover by whom it has been sold, they will immediately enter a complaint against him before a Justice of the Peace. They will take care that the Indians commit no injury themselves & are not injured by others. In case any Indians are intoxicated in town they will if possible remove them from it.

3. Horses will not be furnished the Interpreters unless they are ordered to a distance,

4. On their return from an expedition they will immediately report to one of the Agents.

5. Interpreters stationed at a distance will report by letter, whenever any thing occurs worthy of being communicated.

6. One Interpreter will constantly attend at the Council House. He will be designated by the Agents.

7. An Interpreter will always attend when provisions are issued to the Indians, to see that justice is done to them in the quantity & quality.

8. The secret instructions which Interpreters receive, they will accurately observe & will not communicate to others.

9. Any person in the Department deficient in zeal, industry or fidelity will be immediately dismissed.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS.
1. At the end of every month the Secretary will require from the Contractor an abstract of all rations issued by him in the course of the month for the Indian Department, & will ascertain whether the issues have been correct.

2. Rations for Indians & Interpreters will be issued upon the return of the Agents.

3. Rations for the Agents will be issued upon the return of the Secretary.

4. The Agents & Interpreters will be paid quarterly upon a proper Pay Roll. The first payment will be on the first day of January next.

5. The Armourer employed by the Governor will do any work he may be directed by the Agents, & in repairing the Guns of the Indians he will use as much expedition as possible. He will also be directed to repair publick arms. He will be paid at the same time with the Agents & Interpreters but upon a separate account. His return for rations will be signed by the Secretary.

The foregoing Regulations will be observed by every person in the Indian Department.

Detroit September 15 1814.

Governor of Michigan.

Our broadside-leaflet was published very shortly after Cass, William Henry Harrison, and Isaac Shelby held a conference with the Indian tribes at Greenville, Ohio. The purpose of the meeting was to resecure the allegiance of three tribes which had favored the British interest in the War of 1812. Cass was not the chief negotiator in the 1814 treaty, but he observed most particularly what the Indians said and how they acted. Later he wrote Secretary of War William Crawford, “I have frequently conversed with them upon their situation and prospects and have found them deeply sensible of their forlorn condition, and anxiously desirous of meliorating it. I doubt whether the eye of humanity in a survey of the world could discover a race of men more helpless and wretched.”
In the *Regulations* Cass was doing what he could to help the Indians. He knew that if the agents and traders were required to keep their accounts carefully, and if those accounts were settled regularly, a major cause of friction between the Indians and the whites would be removed. Accounts kept in slipshod fashion were inevitably settled in favor of the agents and the traders. Cass, for the benefit of the Indians, as well as for the protection of his office, insisted that all Indian affairs be handled promptly and honorably. This determination to give the Indians fair play persisted with Cass. Recently, Regent Roscoe O. Bonisteel of Ann Arbor drew my attention to a letter in his possession in which Cass, then Secretary of War, boldly tangled with John Jacob Astor and the American Fur Company in defense of the Indians' rights. Until the end of his life, Cass had “a strong sense of justice and a sympathetic understanding of the Indian's position.”

Colton Storm

*Clements Library*

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