

THE DICKSON FILIBUSTER

Among the Ermatinger letters recently received by the Minnesota Historical Society for photostating (see *post*, p. 97) is one that adds data of some value to available material on that strange filibuster, James Dickson, who passed up the Great Lakes and made his way across northern Minnesota to the Red River settlements in the fall of 1836. In the diary of Martin McLeod mention is made of Dickson's stopping at the Ontonagon River to deliver letters to "young Ermatinger" (see *ante*, 4:374). The editor of the diary hazarded the guess that the recipient of the letters was James Ermatinger. This guess is now substantiated by the document referred to, a letter from George Ermatinger to his son, dated October 5, 1836. A sentence in this letter that was not deciphered when these letters were printed in the *Eau Claire Telegram* in 1925 should read, "Charles will be here early in the spring to go on to join Gen^l Dickson I will go likewise, Doct. Bell Alex. McKee your mothers brother and Tho^s M^cKee who is to be here very early in the spring with about Four hundred Indians." This portion of the letter is of considerable importance, for it contains a very interesting bit of information about Dickson's plans to secure an army of half-breeds and Indians for his filibustering venture.

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