

Papers from the Canadian archives, 1778-1783.

PAPERS FROM THE CANADIAN ARCHIVES 1778–1783.

The following are copies of papers in the Haldimand Collection, secured from the historical archives of the Dominion of Canada, at Ottawa. The originals are in the British Museum, London, England. Where there are omissions, the matter stricken out has no bearing upon Wisconsin history.

MAJOR DE PEYSTER¹ TO GENERAL CARLETON.²

¹ Major Arent Schuyler de Peyster, then British commandant of Michilimackinac and dependencies. He was born in New York city, June 27, 1736, the son of Pierre Guillaume de Peyster; his mother was Catharine, sister of the famous Peter Schuyler. June 10, 1755, he entered the 8th (or King's) regiment of foot; and, after serving in various places in North America, was in 1774 placed in command of Michilimackinac. He displayed marked ability at this important post, in keeping the Western Indians in line with British interests during the first half of the Revolutionary war. When, in 1779, Lieut. Governor Hamilton was captured at Vincennes, by George Rogers Clark, De Peyster was sent to succeed Hamilton in command of Detroit. He remained there until 1784, having now risen to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Afterwards, he went to Great Britain, where he became colonel, being in command at Plymouth, Fort Mifflin and other stations. He had the honor, during the French revolution, of training the 1st regiment of Dumfries volunteers, of which Robert Burns was a member. It was to De Peyster, himself a veteran rhymster, that Burns addressed the lines, beginning, "My honor'd Colonel, deep I feel," etc. Colonel De Peyster died at Dumfries in November, 1822. A copy of his *Miscellanies*, wherein he recorded, in prose and verse, some of his experiences in the Northwest from 1774 to 1779, is in the possession of Lyman C. Draper, of Madison, Wis.; there are but few other copies now in existence. Cf. Butterfield's *Washington-Irvine Correspondence*, pp. 417, 418.— Ed.

Library of Congress

2 Sir Guy Carleton, K. B., governor of Canada, 1774–1778.— Ed.

Michalimackinac 30th May 1778,

Sir , I have just received a letter from Mr. Langlade³ acquainting [me] that his affairs goes on very slow at La 7

³ For material on Charles Michel de Langlade, see *Wis Hist. Coll.*, vii., pp: 123–187, 405–408; viii., pp. 209–223.— Ed.

98 Baye.¹ The Menomenies having lost two chiefs & the Chippawas of the plains have made war upon that nation I have therefore come to the resolution of sending down such of the Indians as are ready (one hundred and ten forms this first Division) & I shall make the Outawas follow in a day or two right glad to get rid of them.² It can scarce be credited to what inconveniency I am put to carry on this service, No vessels being yet arrived from Detroit or Canoe from Montreal to give me the least assistance.

¹ Green Bay, Wis.— Ed.

² These Indians — the Ottawas — were to be used against the Americans.— Ed.

The Traders inform me that Lieut Gen r Hamilton³ will not allow their Rum to come to this Post except a small quantity for the North trade. On this report the little here raised to Twelve pounds ten shillings Halifax per keg.

³ Col. Henry Hamilton, then lieutenant governor and superintendent of Indian affairs, of Detroit and its dependencies, He was appointed to this position in 1775. Hamilton was an able and energetic officer, but his zeal was greater than his humanity and he did not hesitate to employ Indian scalping parties against the Americans. July 27, 1777, he reported to his government that he had already sent out fifteen parties, aggregating two hundred and eighty-nine warriors, with thirty white rangers and officers, to harass the American settlements on the Pennsylvania and Virginia borders. When, in 1778, George

Library of Congress

Rogers Clark captured the Illinois and Wabash country, Hamilton organized an expedition of whites and Indians to retake the territory. He succeeded in recovering Vincennes, December 17,—the American garrison consisting of a captain and one private. But Clark retook Ft. Sackville. in Vincennes, February 25, 1779, and sent Hamilton and his officers prisoners to Virginia. The Virginia council found that Hamilton had been guilty of excessive cruelties to American prisoners at Detroit, had offered rewards for scalps and encouraged the slaughter of the defenceless; but the judgment of modern historians is more favorable to him. See the evidence reviewed in Winsor's *Narr. and Crit. Hist. Am.*, vi., p. 682. After a time spent in irons in a dungeon at Williamsburg, the British officers were released and paroled. During 1785, Hamilton was governor of Canada; later, he became governor of Dominica and soon thereafter died.— Ed.

As nothing has arrived here for the King except about half canoe load of dry goods by Gautier last fall I have made a merchant purchase me all the Barn in this place which has gone but a little way to wards contenting, I have endeavored to sweeten their tempers with sugar and water & have 99 complimented the chiefs with the remains of my private stock of Liquors. If no vessells arrive with Rum soon I cannot answer for the bad effects it will produce.

* * * * *

I am &c At. S. De Peyster .

INDIAN LICENSES, 1778.

List of Indian Licenses granted at Quebec for Michilimackinac and places beyond from the 13 th day of April to the 4 th day of June, 1778. Accounting where the Arms and Ammunition distened [destined] after it arrives at the Post of Michilimackinac.

Number of Passes. Traders Names to whom granted. Canoes. Quantity of ammunition brought. Fuzees. Gun Powder. Shot and Ball. Where distened beyond Michilimackinac.
1 Louis Chabollier 2 20 600 1,200 Grand River. 6 Finley & Gregory 2 24 1,000 900

Library of Congress

Mississippi. 13 Wm. and John Hay 2 20 1,200 1,200 North West. 14 Ditto 3 20 1,500 800 Illinois and Mississippi. 15 Ditto 4 80 3,000 3,600 Ditto. 16 Ditto 2 20 1,500 1,400 Prairie du Chain and Mississippi. 18 Etienne Campion 4 4 2,000 1,800 La Bave and Mississippi. 19 Mchs. Maréehepean 5 50 2,000 1,800 Ditto. 22 Grant & Soloman 2 50 600 1,400 Nippigon. 23 Ditto 3 50 1,000 2,000 Ditto. 28 Amable Curot 1 12 500 800 Towards La Baye. 43 John Bte Barthe 3 12 500 5,200 Lake Superior. ... Hippt Des Riv.eres 3 20 800 1,200 Grand River and La Baye. 47 Gable Cotteé 3 34 1,200 1,200 Neppigon. 49 Benj. Lyon 1 16 400 600 Prairie du Chain. 57 Josh. Languinet 3 30 1,400 2,400 La Baye, etc. 61 J. B. Labeau 2 20 1,200 1,200 Illenois. 62 Jean Cullat 2 20 1,200 1,200 Mississippi. 63 J. M. Ducharm 2 40 1,800 200 Prairie du Chin. 64 P. J. Lavigna 2 30 1,200 1,000 La Baye, etc. 66 Joseph Biron 1 10 400 400 Ditto. 67 C. Lamarche 1 6 400 700 Ditto. 68 L. Durocher 1 20 600 700 Illenois. 69 Alerr Campion 1 8 250 500 La Bay. 70 Robt. Aird 1 15 425 600 Prérie Du Chin. 71 Paschal Pillet 1 9 500 600 La Bay. 72 J. B. Guillon 2 24 1,200 600 Illenois via St. Joseph. 73 Pt La Croix 2 16 1,200 1,200 La Bay.

At De Peyster , Major to the King.

100

GAUTIER'S JOURNAL OF A VISIT TO THE MISSISSIPPI, 1777–78.1

1 Charles Gautier de Verville was the son of Charles Michel de Langlade's half-sister. Gautier's father, Claude Germain Gautier de Verville, married Marie Louise Therese Villeneuve—daughter of Madam Augustin Lunglade by her first marriage—on the 2d of October, 1736. Charles de Langlade was born in 1729, and Charles Gautier not earlier than 1737. The latter's grandmother being a sister of King Nissowagnet, or La Fourche (The Fork), he himself was a quarter-blood Ottawa. In 1755, when not over eighteen years of age, young Gautier served with De Langlade at the defeat of Braddock. Four years later, he “fought like a lion” on the plains of Abraham, but at the close of the war, in common with his fellows, cheerfully rallied under the standard of his old enemies, the British. During the Revolutionary war, we find him constantly employed, usually with De Langlade, in keeping the Northwestern Indians in line with English interests. He appears to have rendered valuable assistance in this service, and in the letters of Major De Peyster and other British officers in the West, he is frequently referred to as being a valuable

Library of Congress

military agent among the savages west of Lake Michigan. He obtained the commission of captain, as a reward for bravery and successful Indian diplomacy. After the close of the Revolutionary war, he settled at Mackinaw and was occasionally employed by the English government as an Indian interpreter. By a Winnebago wife, he had three children, of whom one became the consort of the eider Michael Brisbois, and the mother of Michael Brisbois, Jr. Gautier regularly married Miss Madelaine Chevalier, "a woman of rare beauty." The eider of their two daughters married Henry Fisher, of Prairie du Chien, and the younger became the legal wife of the senior Brisbois. Gautier, in 1798, retired from Mackinaw and went to live with his son-in-law, Brisbois, at Prairie du Chien, where he died about 1803, aged some sixty-six years. His wife followed him a few years later. Their numerous descendants at Green Bay and Prairie du Chien rank with the best of the old families there.— Ed.

[Translated from the French by Grace Clark.]

To His Excellency, de Carletonne, General for his Britannic Majesty in Canada .

Having found myself able and indeed designed to go and induce the Nations of the Mississippi to come and take your orders, I left two mountains² the 28th [October, 1777], to carry out my mission and accidents have so detained me that I

² The Lake of the Two Mountains is a widening of the Ottawa river, about twelve miles above its mouth. In the time of Gautier, there was a station there, at which traders and exploring parties fitted for expeditions to the Northwest.— Ed.

101 was not able to go to Missilimakinac¹ with my Indians until the 31st where after presenting my orders to the Commandant and receiving his I set out again the 6th [November] for la Baye and arrived there the 25th where I began to announce your plans which I supported and confirmed in Indian fashion by wampum belts and presents.

Library of Congress

1 See *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, vii., p. 125, for various spellings of Michilimackinac. Cf. also Butterfield's *Discovery of the Northwest*, p. 55, note 1; and *N. Y. Col. Docs.*, index.— Ed.

If it should please² your excellency to grant to his humble servant the freedom to decide, he would not have so much trouble and anxiety, he would amuse himself with his friends and presently he would have more ample knowledge of hot-headedness than he will ever have of Indian disposition he would also be exempt in the matter of jealousy and all criticism.

2 *Cent il plu a Votre Excel*, etc.— Tr.

I implore your clemency and as a novice in this art I hope you will design to receive with indulgence this journal that I make with no other view than to try to make my zeal equal to the opinion that you have of me in elevating me to the summit of such a tree that the least wind only throws me down.

While I remained at this post [La Baye], I sent runners to the winter quarters of the Indians in the vicinity with belts and presents both to several folles avoines³ and to puants⁴ seeing that M. de Langlade⁶ did not come into this region this year.

3 Menomonees.— Ed.

4 Winnebagoes.— Ed.

6 “*Jay mieux fait les egresse que je nanvois du aussi bien qua dautre mandian qui ayant sen mon arrivée ne mont pas epargné et suis reparty*,” etc.— Tr.

The 11 th [December], Sabacherez fol avoine died whom I had buried the 22 nd December, I covered him and as I came to raise the nation I started out better than I have although some beggars learned of my arrival and did not spare⁷ me, and I set out again the 23 after sending the nations to seek out their winter quarters and to inform

Library of Congress

6 Charles Michel de Langlade, his uncle — Ed.

102 those whom they should see on the road of the reason of my journey.

Taking the road to the river la Roche,¹ I stopped with S r Lisse the 31 st [December] to inquire concerning the winter quarters, both of the Indians and the french and some puant chiefs came along to whom I spoke and left them two belts hoping to conceal other presents that I will not mention here for fear of wearying the reader.

1 Rock river.— Ed.

I left to Sieur Lessé a belt with a runner for the ajovoin, and another for Milwaki.

The 3 rd of January, 1778, I continued my journey to the river la Roche, carrying out my orders on the way up to the 14 th of it [January] and I fell upon a lake near 2 villages, whose inhabitants, one to the number of 100 puants, the other 200 Sakis,² had left for winter quarters, and the 15 th I arrived at the river la Roche where there was no one. I was compelled to seek them taking the road as well as I could to prairie du chien, and at all the little lodges I met with I announced your plans, as far as the prairie du chien where I was awaited by a part of each nation who were meanwhile in winter quarters and who had very little to eat.

2 Sacs.— Ed.

The 27 th I arrived at prairie du chien at Sieur Lese's where I obtained information as to winter quarters.

I dispatched Runners to the Scioux to bury the Sakies and Renard³ who were wintering below the Mississippi and also to the Traders that were with them so that they might aid me in sustaining my belt.

3 Foxes.— Ed.

Library of Congress

It was necessary also to ask for food and clothing for a part of the families of those who had been in Canada, as they had left their things at la baye and were sick tired and nearly frozen.

I took refreshments and left this place the 30 th to go among the Scioux of the lakes and to fulfill my mission on the way.

The 12 th [February] I appeared at the River S te Croix 103 where I learned that part of the Scioux were wintering at the upper part of this river with some puants who fared very badly on account of the delay of their Comrades who were at Montreal thinking they were dead, and in virtue of this they wanted to kill Sieur Robert, being English.

As soon as the news was known I started to quiet this tumult and arrived the 13 th at the house of the said S r Robert where it was time that I was [considering what] might have perhaps happened, seeing the mood in which I found those rascals (I did not go hostilely). I pacified them as well as I could and the french after this affair informed me where the Scioux were.

The 17 th I had a runner leave to go and seek Sabache a great Scioux chief and another to go among the Sauteux¹ of Manominikara with belts and the customary presents, for them I made use of the name of M r Pehster² their father at Missil.³ I invited them to come and see me promising them peace with the Scioux.

1 Chippewas.— Ed.

2 Major De Peyster.— Ed.

3 Michilimackinac.— Ed.

Library of Congress

I heard it said that the Scioux of the River St. pri⁴ were Assembling to go to war against the Sauteux, I had a runner set out and begged them to keep quiet that I had a matter to communicate to them.

4 St. Peter river.— Ed.

The 22 d , Sabache sent me word they were going to be with me in five days.

25 th . There arrived from Terre 9 lodges of puants to leave their wives and children [*a faire du suite*] and to depart straightway to go and fall upon the Sauteux and avenge the death of a puant whom they had killed last summer by mistake at Lac du Boeuf.⁵

5 Buffalo lake.— Ed.

This would have been a war which all the nations of the Mississippi would have engaged in if I had not checked it and it would have cost me still more that [if?] I had always tried to stop them.⁶

6 The meaning here is obscure. The original reads: “ *Ce seroit été une querre que toute la nation du Mississippi auroient soutenn si je ny avois remedié et m' en auroit il couté davantage que j'aurois toujours assayé a les arreter.*”— Ed.

104

The 28 th , the Sauteux of Manomanisk arrived and after resting I spoke to them thus:

My brothers, I announce to you on the part of your father that if you do not hasten to see him this year you will make him think that you are not his children and he will be angry.

He has a long Arm and very large hands.

He is good, he has a good heart when his children heed him.

Library of Congress

He is bad, he is terrible, he sits in judgment on all the indians and french.

reply.

It is good that you tell us what our father has told you to tell us.

I am a chief I hope to go see him twice this spring.

I know that the chiefs are good, strong, bad [*sic* .] and that they can all [go?].

20 th [March]. But there came a Sciouse who told me that the Sauteux not being so strong as they in winter quarters had made them a present of a little oil which they [the Sauteux] had prepared with poison, which had made them [the Sciouse] all sick.

24 th . The runner from the River St. Pierre reported to me that the Scioux were asking for me.

26 th . The puants mourned their comrade and sang. I was obliged to clothe the deceased in clothing — his family was composed of six persons, and I repeat that I found this matter of importance seeing that they did not act from self-interest.

27 th , sabache arrived with 20 men.

28 th , we all set out to go up the Mississippi and put our canoes with our baggage.

7 th April, I arrived at River St. Pierre where I found S r 105 Berty¹ and several other workmen with de sarpeton. I spoke to them and talked about war, with a belt and ordinary presents.

1 John Baptiste Barthe, a trader licensed from Michilimackinac for the Lake Superior country.— Ed.

Library of Congress

12 th . Another company of them carne and talked war with some puants who had come with them.

14 th . The nephew of the Scioux chief was drowned with a frenchman, which caused a little trouble through the sadness which it spread in the place, besides the general scarcity so overpowered me that to make them follow me I was obliged to buy food.

20 th . I took the Road to prairie du Chien gathering on the way the most indians it was possible.

26 th . Arrived at prairie du Chien where I expected the nations and prepared to receive them.

I bought food, drink and some merchandise that I thought necessary, Indians arrived every moment from winter quarters. [The] agovoin took the lead and left their comrades preparing to come.

I received a letter from S r de Langlade through [the chief?] Siskomsin in which he commanded me to speak to all the chiefs and warriors and not to others, that he himself was a warrior and not a chief, that he invited his comrades the Warriors to come & see him at la Baye and to succeed in this they had only to take this Tomahawk by one end because he held it by the other.

May 4 th . It is reported in the camp that S r Louis Reaume had killed and scalped a Sakie. sad news for me who was preparing to talk war[;] this nation bidden against the whites robbed S r Delinctot Lathe of a fierce of brandy on his way toward the river la Roche and they said [also that] they would have vengeance for this death.²

² Godefroy Linctot, a trader, in the spring of 1779 joined fortunes with the Americans. De Peyster writes Haldimand, July 9, that the renegade was preparing to march against St. Joseph's with 400 horse; Aug. 9, he writes that Linctot's destination is Detroit, but

Library of Congress

he has sent out 500 Indians to harass the party on its way.— *Mich. Pion. Coll.*, ix., pp. 389, 390, 392. Lincrot was appointed by Clark as Indian agent “for the Illinois river and all the western side of said river to the east of the Mississippi,” with power to appoint “an assistant for the upper part of the Mississippi, near the Dog Plains” (Prairie du Chien). See *Calendar Va. State Papers*, i., p. 325. Linctot was at first appointed captain, but later became a major (*ibid*, p. 428). Of all the French adherents to the American cause, in the West, he was one of the most active.— Ed.

106

I assembled all the Traders and made them help cover up this so called shameful death after Sieur Louis Reaume had in a feeble way redeemed this murder.

I aided also in this result more than any other because the aforesaid good intentioned relation [Reaume] had descended from Montreal and had waited at the prairie until I arrived there to talk war with me and would have succeeded if the brandy trade had not proved too strong for the Indian mind—except the Scioux who have served me and all the whites as safeguards.

Such a confusion was hard to put down among Indians who charged the whites with wish to destroy them by Drink and by war, that [which] turned a large part of the Sakies and renards from going down, speaking very badly and without reserve, arising from a Sakie of the river la Roche named la main Cassée that came from the Mississippi to fall upon any passer that might come to the prairie or even going himself to enter wherever he could catch a glimpse saying that no nation of his color was able to resist him and that he wanted to help the Whites to know it (as well as [that] we were wishing to destroy the idea of our [then?] superiors [superiority?] so as to make them know what the White skin was.)

8 th . I found when I got up, 3 or 4 feet from my tent, le soichihone great chief of the Sakies of siskoinsin, little by little people awoke and these men began to search for him. I resisted it, he had no wound nor not one bruise but he was purple and foamed at the mouth, two

Library of Congress

Days ago he was Drinking and we all supposed that Drink had killed him, but the Indians unceasingly charged the Whites with having killed him, which awakened the affair of S r Louis Reaume which was only half quieted, I was obliged to lead away my Scioux our guard and to keep ourselves hidden.

There came more news that S r Alexis Reaume his brother 107 had been killed in returning from winter quarters from below the Mississippi.

I stopped the trade in brandy seeing the principal chiefs drunk and I clothed the deceased and had him buried with all the Indian rites.

I will not detail the ill treatment that one suffers on such occasions.

10 th . I dispatched S r de Linctot the younger to go and seek the agovoins of this chief with a suitable belt.

I acted as mildly as I could with these people, I made them speak and I spoke myself with a belt of peace to quiet a second revolt that was preparing and I proposed to them to each go to their village in order to talk there more at ease.

I prohibited a second time the trade in brandy, a thing which went against the Traders and I was compelled in spite of all ugly speeches to leave.

The 13 th May, left the prairie and took the Road for the Village of the Renards with seven Scioux families and arrived there the 15 th and waited till they Came.

The 17 th , I talked war I gave them the belt of the way and another fastened to a red Tomahawk.

A Renard called le Chat began and staved in a Barrel and overturned it with kicks saying that that didn't pay for the bodies of the two dead men whom the Whites had killed.

Library of Congress

All of them were grumbling low and I saw myself taken unless Siskoinsin chief of the village had not taken the Tomahawk and sung after making a speech contrary to the ideas of the whole Village, which calms all and the rest very Well and the Reply of those departing was put off till the next day.

The 17 th , there was counted about 60 men who were to come to Montreal and in order not to delay me so that I could leave, for the Sakies they had come for me.

18 th . Left for the Sakies and on the Way I spoke to different ones that I met in the Village des pins where I prohibited [?], and performed the same ceremonies as elsewhere.

22 nd . I arrived at the Village of the Sakies and the next day I talked war. That day there arrived three Sakies of 108 the Village from the river la Roche who came to speak to all the Villages of Siskoinsin with a so-called belt of the Bostonniens¹ who had surrendered in the course of the Winter; they were at one end of the lodge when I began to talk at the other end, without knowing that there were some strangers in this lodge, afterwards I was warned not to go to the river la Roche as I had premeditated, by a good old woman (such is not often found) as I and my men would be killed; The Indians that I knew hesitated to lead me There and some others were inclined to it with all their heart, all this took place in the council of war and a great many weak voices talked war.

1 Americans.— Ed.

All these contradictions did not coöperate for my undertaking, on the contrary the death of these two men was revived and the first more than the second. They had only this to reproach me with without wishing to tell me that these three deputies came to speak to them, but I knew through the faithful ones that they had a belt from the Bostonniens who promised them to keep quiet unless they should do to them as they had done to others, which kept the latter balanced.

Library of Congress

Sieur Janisse took the Tomahawk and danced which excited the whole nation as he was the great comrade of the son of the dead Sirchihome and at the end of his dance presented him with the Tomahawk, this young man was in conversation with these three strangers over the so claimed Bostonnien belt (I was not able to see it) this news was made known secretly and I found myself in a very short moment chief of a very small [band] of Royalists while the son of the deceased seated in both councils took the Tomahawk and made a speech in which he demanded my skin in order to level me, and to appease him I was forced to give him my regimentals, he conducted things very well, afterwards S r Calvé [took] the Tomahawk, danced and sang war, which had a very good effect.²

² Joseph Calvé was a trader, employed by the British as military agent among the Sacs and Foxes. As late as June, 1780, De Peyster considered him an “honest and inoffensive man” and praised him for valuable services. But in the attack on St. Louis, Calvé seemed to Sinclair to be working in the American interest. On account of his supposed treachery, and that of Jean Marie Ducharme and other traders in the Sac country, Sinclair calls the expedition “a sham attack.” July 30, 1780, Sinclair writes to De Peyster (*Mich. Pion. Coll.*, ix., p. 586) that “The attack upon the Illinois miscarried from the treachery of Calvé and Ducharme,” etc. Cf. Scharf's *Hist. St. Louis*, pp. 206, 207; and Reynolds's *Pion. Hist. Illinois* (ed. 1887), pp. 123, 124.— Ed.

109

After these men had finished [*mendircent autant que le Renard*] and sent me away till the Next day, they consulted the rest of the Day at their ease.

(These frenchmen whom I mention are married [among the Indians] and have their trade) there are others who told me they would descend with me.

The Sakies came to tell me to go and await them at the portage of the 8iskoinsin¹ that they and their brothers the renards would come to me there, I set out straightway after

Library of Congress

leaving them again the loving words of their father to calm their heart and give courage, repeating to them that their father awaited them only to see them.

1 Wisconsin river.— Ed.

26 th . Stopped at the Village of Nibakoa, village of every nation [several nations] and performed there same Sermonie as usual, they informed me that the renards and Sakies were considering making war upon the Sauteux and that Many of them did not go down to Montreal (a part of this Village is composed of Sauteux.)

They accepted belts Tomahawk and presents and conducted things very well, they told me they would come to me at the portage of the 8iskoinsin.

27 th , arrived at the portage with my Scioux and the follesavoines and did my carrying.

29 th , I sent a runner to see if the renards and Sakies were coming, the puants of the River la Roche came to join me there.

30 th , the Season was advancing too far, which made me leave and I continued to Write back all along the road as far as the great Village of the puants of the Lake² which was the strongest one.

2 At Winnebago rapids, now Neenah,Wis.— Ed.

110

2 nd June, arrived at la hay where I found S r De Langlade waiting for me, he was anxious on account of my Delay and after telling him a part of my troubles I gave him an account of my mission.

3 rd , I remitted to S r de Langlade recruits, comprising men women and children

37 h e Scioux and families.

Library of Congress

20 h e Renards " "

20 h e Sakie " "

20 h e puants river la roche.

6 h e Nabakoa and families.

80 h e puans " "

& 7 h e Agos " "

4 th , S r de Lincto the younger arrived from the Village of the Agosoin and in giving the account of his mission, he said to S r de Langlade his friend, that the Spaniards had sent word to the agosoin not to heed the Venimous and empoisoned Mouths which should come or which had already spoken to them that those bad men had no other end in view than to destroy them by the Bostonniens, that they were braver men than any other nation and that they were upheld by the Spaniards (among whom the Agosoin go very often and indeed are neighbors). all concurred to my enterprise for they were ready to come to the number of Sixty and more, besides the Abovementioned la main cassé had spoken to them (this man should be Well rewarded and he makes Much expense with the runners that he is constantly dispatching and Even to Milwaki not for the Good but for the bad.)

I thought I should be able to complete my three hundred men in January last if all these misfortunes had not suddenly stopped me and I have flattered myself in vain that I could by my mission [show] his Excelency my zeal for the Service that nothing shall exceed.

After handing over my recruits of two hundred and ten men to S r de Langlade not including women and children, the folles avoines to whom I had spoken, came to Join the number of men in camp, and all together we departed and 111 de Langlade and I [set out]

Library of Congress

from the baye des puans the 6th of June 1778 for Missilimakinac with the aim of so well pleasing the Indians that we could make them go to Montreal; so let it be. C. Gautier .

Vreteneque,1

1 Apparently the names of the leaders of the several bands collected by Gautier.— Ed.

Renard.

Teskinawa, Sakie.

Oreshkaté, Scioux.

Indorsed: “From the best information I can get it appears to me that M r Gautier has met with the many difficultys set forth in the body of this his Journal, and that he was absolutely under the necessity of putting the Government to some extraordinary expense. Given under my hand at Fort Machilimackinac this 22 nd day of June 1778. A r S. De Peyster, Major to the Kings Commanding.”

DE PEYSTER TO CARLETON.

Michiliamakinac 29 June 1778.

Sir ,—I have the honor to acquaint you that on the 24 th Instant I sent off the last of the Indians destined for Montreal this Season amounting to 550 warriors Messrs Calveé & Roque² are going as Interpreters to the Lachis Schiong [Sioux of the Lakes] &c Calveé has been of Service in the Mississipy for several years past and particularly this last winter.

2 Rocque was an interpreter detailed for service among the Sioux. During the expedition against St. Louis, in 1780, he accompanied Wabasha in this capacity.— Ed.

Library of Congress

I lately wrote to Lt Col Bolton³ begging of him to apply to your Excellency for leave of absence for me my health being so much impaired by the constant attendance I am obliged to give to Indians that at times I suffer the greatest torture Since my application I have got accounts that the Labay Indians and the Chippawas are at war and otherwise very restless which if not settled may be of great detriment

³ Lieut. Colonel Mason Bolton, of the 8th regiment of foot; his headquarters were at Niagara.— Ed.

112 to the Service & disadvantage to trade. This is a point I shall endeavor to settle before I avail myself of my leave you may please to grant me & I shall settle every other matter in the best order for whoever I may leave to command. The matter of pleasing the Indians without any very extraordinary expence to Government may be easily acquired by a person possessed of any degree of patience and activity Hitherto I have entrusted no one thing to others which the absence of the Superintendent and his train have facilitated. I should therefore be sorry that for want of my usual activity I should leave the Indians any room for complaining, which will be the case if the Commanding officer does not see things with his own eyes I mean at this post where I have always been sure to see every individual satisfied I have not received a line from your Excellency nor from any one in office this year no vessels as yet being arrived from Niagara, every other year they had made their second trip before now.

No canoe has yet arrived for the King, not even the one which Mr Langlade left at the Lake of the Two Mountains last fall.

The weakness of this Garrison (as the men from Niagara were not arrived) prevented my sending more than five men with Lieutenant Bennet¹ to which I added seven Canadians. I hear that they were east on the rocks on Lake Superior but lost nothing but ammunition and provisions. I have sent off a fresh supply,

Library of Congress

1 Lieut. Thomas Bennett, of the 8th foot, was dispatched to the Grand Portage, at the west end of Lake Superior, to settle differences among the Indians there and to arrest any "ill affected or suspected persons resorting there" (*Mich. Pion. Coll.*, ix., p. 356). The traders of the Northwest Company were themselves not above suspicion of leaning to the American interest (*ibid*, p. 552).— Ed.

I have the honor &c (Signed) At. S. De Peyster .

113

COLONEL CLARK'S MEMORANDUM TO A WINNEBAGO CHIEF.

By George Rogers Clark Esq r Colonel and Commandant of the Eastern Illinois & its Dependencies &c &c &c.1

Whereas Chourachon Chief of the Puans and his nation Living at the Rock River have entered into Alliance and 8

1 Gen. George Rogers Clark was born Nov. 19, 1752, near Monticello, Albemarle county, Va. At the age of twenty he was practicing his profession as a surveyor on the upper Ohio, and afterwards became a farmer. In 1774, he participated in Dunmore's campaign against the Shawnees and Mingoës. Early in 1775, Clark went as a surveyor to Kentucky, where he acquired marked popularity, and in 1776 was elected as "a delegate to the Virginia convention, to urge upon the state authorities the claims of the colony for government and defence." He secured the formation of the new county of Kentucky and a supply of ammunition for the defence of the border. In 1777, Clark, now a major of militia, repelled the Indian attacks on Harrodsburg and proceeded on foot to Virginia to lay before the state authorities his plan for capturing the Illinois country and repressing the Indian forays from that quarter. His scheme being approved, he was made a lieutenant colonel and at once set out to raise for the expedition a small force of hardy frontiersmen. He rendezvoused and drilled his little army on an island in the Ohio river, opposite the present city of Louisville. June 24, 1778, he started, and after passing the rapids landed near the

Library of Congress

deserted Fort "Massac," which was on the north bank, ten miles below the mouth of the Tennessee; thence marching across country, much pressed for food, reaching Kaskaskia in six days. The inhabitants there were surprised and coerced during the night of July 4–5, without the firing of a gun. Cahokia and Vincennes soon quietly succumbed to his influence. Governor Hamilton, on hearing of this loss of the Illinois country and the partial defection of the tribes west and southwest of Lake Michigan, at once set out to organize an army, chiefly composed of Indians, to retake the Illinois. He proceeded via the Wabash and Maumee, with eight hundred men, and recaptured Vincennes, December 17. The correspondence we are here publishing has largely to do with Hamilton's negotiations, through De Peyster, Langlade and Gautier, for the mustering of savage allies for his expedition, from the country west of Lake Michigan and his attempt to thwart the intrigues of Clark's agents, who were very busy among the Indians north and northwest of the Illinois country, even penetrating as far north as the Wisconsin river. The intelligence of this movement of Hamilton was not long in reaching Clark at Kaskaskia, and he at once set out for Vincennes to recapture it. Hamilton surrendered to him, February 25, and was forwarded to Virginia as a prisoner. The weakness of his force and the poverty of Virginia alone prevented Clark from moving on Detroit. Early in 1780 he established Fort Jefferson, just below the mouth of the Ohio, and later in the season aided in repelling a body of British and Indians who had come to regain the Illinois country and attack the Spaniards at St. Louis. Leaving Colonel Montgomery to pursue the enemy up the Mississippi, Clark, with what force could be spared, hastened to Kentucky where he quickly raised a thousand men and invaded and laid waste the Shawnee villages, in retaliation for Bird's invasion. Later, he was engaged in some minor forays and was appointed a brigadier general; but his favorite scheme of an expedition to conquer Detroit miscarried, owing to the poverty of Virginia and the activity of the enemy under Brant, McKee, Girty and other border leaders. In 1782, he led a thousand men in a successful campaign against the Indians on the Great Miami. This was his last important service, his subsequent expeditions proving failures. His later years were spent in poverty and seclusion, and his social habits became none of the best. In 1793, he imprudently accepted a commission as

Library of Congress

major-general, from Genet, the French diplomatic agent, and essayed to raise a French revolutionary legion in the West to overcome the Spanish settlements on the Mississippi; upon Genet's recall, Clark's commission was canceled. He died February 18, 1818, at Locust Grove near Louisville, Ky., and lies buried at Cave Hill, in the Louisville suburbs. In his article on Clark, in *Appletons' Cyclop. of Amer. Biog.*, i., pp. 626, 627, Lyman C. Draper says: "Clark was tall and commanding, brave and full of resources, possessing the affection and confidence of his men. All that rich domain northwest of the Ohio was secured to the republic, at the peace of 1783, in consequence of his prowess." Cf. William F. Poole, in Winsor's *Narr. and Crit. Hist. Amer.*, vi., pp. 710–742. While due credit should be given to Clark for his daring and successful undertaking, we must not forget that England's jealousy of Spain, and shrewd diplomacy on the part of America's peace plenipotentiaries, were factors even more potent in winning the Northwest for the United States.— Ed.

114 Friendship with the United States of America, and Promised to be true and faithful Subjects to the same.

In consequence whereof I have given him this writing as a remembrance that he and his said nation are to treat all the subjects of the said States of America with Friendship and receive all those they may meet with, as their Brothers.

Given under my hand and seal at Fort Bowman in the Illinois this 22 nd Aug t 1778.

G. Clark [Seal.]

Indorsed: "Colonel Clark's Certificate to a Chief of the Puan. Dated at Fort Bowman Illinois Country 22 nd Aug t 1778.

"Recd. in Lieut. Gov r Sinclair's Letter of the 29 th May.

Library of Congress

“The within mentioned Chief and his Band are gone to strike against the Rebels and trade upon the commission.

115

“ Machiquawish took the King's Medal from the Breast of one of his Band who refused to go and sent it to this Post.

“Addressed to me with two Prisoners of his Nations which he received from the Scions as a mark of Friendship & future alliance.”

DE PEYSTER TO GENERAL HALDIMAND.¹

¹ Sir Frederick Haldimand, K. B., succeeded Carleton as governor of Canada, in 1778, serving until 1784. His correspondence and the miscellaneous official documents accumulated by him during this important period in American history, constitute the Haldimand Collection, now in the British Museum. The papers herewith presented are carefully copied from the copies of the original documents made under the close supervision of Douglas Brymner, government archivist of the Dominion of Canada. General Haldimand was born in Switzerland and secured the lieutenant-colonelcy of the 60th (or Royal American) regiment of the British army, Jan. 4, 1756. He came to America in that year and was allowed the rank of colonel “in America” a year later. In 1756, he was commandant at Philadelphia. In 1760, he was with Major General Amherst in the expedition from Oswego to Montreal. He became a colonel in the army in 1762, and an “American” major general ten years later, in May. In October, 1772, he was promoted to be colonel commandant of the 60th. Jan. 1, 1776, he was commissioned a general “in America.” In 1777, he rose to be a lieutenant general in the army; and the year following succeeded Governor Carleton, as before noted. Jan. 10, 1785, he arrived in London; in October, he prepared to return to Canada and resume his governorship, but the news of his unpopularity had meanwhile reached England and he never again crossed the ocean. In 1791, he died at Yeverden, Switzerland. See Brymner's *Report on Canadian Archives*,

Library of Congress

for 1887, pp. vii–xxi, for additional details of his career, based on the latest information.—
Ed.

Michilimackinac 21st Sepr 1778.

Sir ,—I did myself the honor to write to your Excellency on the 16 th Instant by Mr. Charles Reaume when I informed you that I had sent a belt and Speech on the 10 th Instant to St. Joseph² to be forwarded to the Illinois to which dispatch of yesterday received the enclosed answer.

² Located in what is now Portage township, St. Joseph county, Ind., on the east side of the St. Joseph river, a short distance below the present city of South Bend. It guarded the much-used portage between St. Joseph river and the head-waters of the Kankakee. Opposite the fort, upon the portage trail, was a Pottawattamie village. It was important to keep this portage open, as the most direct gateway between Detroit and the Illinois country; it was, too, a central depot for the fur trade.— Ed.

116

It appears by Mr. Chevaliers¹ letters that the rebels are too firmly fixed in that important post to hazard my Belt with any prospect of success. I fear however that if they are not routed by some means that the whole Mississippi Trade is knocked up.

¹ Louis Chevalier was a trader who had located at St. Joseph's as early as 1758. During the American operations in the Illinois country, he was regarded by De Peyster as friendly to British interests; but Sinclair, who succeeded De Peyster at Michilimackinac, was of a suspicious turn of mind towards many of the latter's friends, and had Chevalier placed under arrest and sent down to Quebec, as a "suspect." It was found, however, that he could not be held ou so slight a pretext.

The Indians of the little Detroit of Labay The Manomenia Sabris Oumissigoes & Secoux² being arrived and on the point of their departure I present them with a large Belt which I

Library of Congress

desire may go through the different Villages of the Nations which have been employed by Government and who have been so long protected by His Majesty. Telling them that it is my earnest request that they have not the least connection with the Rebels but keep themselves quietly at home till I can have your answer to this letter which I tell them I expect this fall or so early in the winter and to send amongst them before the rivers are open in the Spring. That should I hear of their having done anything prejudicial to the Traders, or of their having entered into any alliance with the enemy I have in such case taken the precautions to request of you that the passes for the ensuing season may require of every Canoe to wait at the mouth of the French river in Lake Huron for my further instructions so that should they misbehave during the winter they may expect I will send to order every Canoe loads of goods back to Montreal. This threat seems to have great force with the Indians present and with submission I could wish your Excellency would think fit to order it so It will detain Canoes no longer than is absolutely necessary, and it will be the means of their coming up with great confidence that far so as to be ready to furnish the nations with their Wants as usual to prevent the trade taking another turn Provided the traders can be allowed to proceed with prosperity.

2 Menomonees, Sacs, Winnebagoes and Sioux.— Ed.

117

I have as much as possible instilled into the Indians the Idea that altho the Rebels may perhaps be able to make a shew of presents at first that they can by no means be able to furnish the different nations with their necessary wants. It now remains for me to send the several nations home pleased, this will require much rum and Tobacco, those gentry the Seroux excepted having continued to employ their Kegs before they arrived here, they must be also provided of good many Canoes as many of theirs are unfit for further Service.

* * * * *

Library of Congress

Should your Excellency judge proper to send Mr. Gautier to proceed to the Mississippi he will hurry this Canoe much without him, it will scarce be in my power to put any orders you may send for the movement of the Labay Indians into Execution. Mr. Langlade the zealous will by no means be able to undertake so active an Enterprise.

The Indians have already declared that were Gautier here to lead them they would penetrate the Illinois Country this winter. As I suppose you will also send orders at Detroit in the winter I shall send off an express to be ready there as my Indians will know the road & as I shall be able to depend upon them & the person I shall send with them.

* * * * *

I have the honor to be &c

(Signed) A. S. De Peyster .

DE PEYSTER TO HALDIMAND.

Michilimackinac 7 October 1778.

Sir ,—I am just honoured with your Letter of the 10th of August last. Your Excellency may depend on me that I shall do all in my power to keep within bounds as much as the present situation of affairs will permit. I am sorry to inform you that the Indians who had been so well provided at Montreal had made away with almost everything before they reached this (their fine cloaths excepted which they 118 carefully preserved) & as the cold weather must pinch them before they reach their houses I could not refuse them some cloathing. I likewise furnished them with Canoes, as many of their Canoes were rendered unfit to proceed. Half of their guns either wanted repairing or exchanging.

Demands were made upon me for payment of their own Canoes which they said were not paid them according to promise at Montreal. They made a claim for provisions taken the

Library of Congress

second Campaign. In this I however put them off till I have an opportunity of seeing their Leaders. Some of them brought me orders for Kegs of Rum &c and I have been obliged to cover their dead afresh. The Rum they got at Montreal to take to their Vilages they drank coming up the Country & they also used their Tobacco & expended their ammunion so that I have had all those articles to furnish over or run the risk of forfeiting all we have ever done.

At length I have sent the Labay Indians off pleased with promises—on their parts not to listen to the rebels at the Illinois from which quarter I have not heard anything since my last letter. I am in hopes the Traders have received my orders to turn up the Mississipy in time so as to avoid falling into their hands.

* * * * *

(Signed) A. S. De Peyster .

DE PEYSTER TO HALDIMAND.

Michilimackinac 24 th October 1778.

Sir ,—Your Excellency's Letters of the 30 th August and 2 nd of September I received the 21 st instant by De Groseliar.¹ I received about the same time a Letter from L t Gov r Hamilton which he left to be forwarded from Detroit. As [had] the Indians not been gone to their several homes before I received Mr. Hamiltons Letters it would have been

¹ J. B. de Grosselier, recommended to De Peyster by Haldimand as a man capable of being made use of in the Illinois country.— *Mich. Pion. Coll.*, ix., p. 353.— Ed.

119 in my power to have seconded his attempt which he tells me he directs in person to dispossess the rebels at the Illinois, and as it may be in my power to dispose the Indians here to coöperate by going down the Illinois River he gives me this notice.¹

Library of Congress

1 Clark had captured Cahokia and the other French villages in the Illinois, early in July.—
Ed.

The Indians at present are too much dispersed for me to assembly them in a body
Sufficiently strong to go down that river and I am persuaded they would not leave their
wives and children in their wintering grounds, there having been no previous provision
made for them I shall however send Express to the grand river² & on the borders of
Lake Michigan to endeavor to spirit up the young men to join Mr. Hamilton by the most
expeditious route ordering them to call at St. Josephs for further information of his
situation.

I shall also write to Mr. Chevalier to give Mr. Hamilton every assistance in his power which
I fear cannot be much, as the Indians mostly are gone to their meeting [hunting] grounds.

2 Grand river, Michigan.— Ed.

I have long since by civil treatment apparently secured that gentleman to His Majesty's
Interests foreseeing thai he would become useful before those troubles could be at
an end, the different representation of him by Mr. Hamilton and myself must appear
extraordinary. I can assure your Excellency that I never heard anything that could be
proven to his disadvantage on the contrary Whilst at this Post, he with a becoming
decency set his enemies at defiance should he however prove faithless the disadvantages
arising from my credulity will be greatly overbalanced by advantages that may occur
by putting some confidence in him. This much I am obliged to say in vindication of my
judgment as Mr. Hamilton notwithstanding my representation to him writes me that he
has represented him to your Excellency in a very unfavorable light. I shall take every
possible method to procure intelligence of the present state of the Illinois and transmit (if I
receive any) by way of Detroit during the course of the winter. I have now to offer 120 my
sentiments agreeable to your Excellency's request whether anything can be done for the
recovery of the Illinois.

Library of Congress

Provided your Excellency's Instructions relative to stopping the communication of the Ohio &c be vigorously put in execution. I am persuaded that Mr. Gautier or some other active person may assemble a body of Indians in his direct road from Labay to the Prairie de chien and in the river St. Pierre to go down the Mississippi early in the spring which may be performed from the mouth of the Oresconsign¹ in seven or eight days. That country is full of resources but the Indians must have presents whenever we fall off from that article they are no more to be depended upon. The past is soon forgot by them except when they do us a favour. Give the Indians of this country a present and they will immediately strive to make some trifling return, which we must however give them four times the value for. To second the above mentioned Indians the Pottewatamies must be also ordered to move down the Illinois river followed by the Ottawas and Chippawas those latter will be rather late but by sending belts before them to assure the Illinois Indians that they came in friendship to them provided they join in driving out the rebels it will have great effect, even the brent of their intended march will settle them. The inhabitants of that country are not to be depended upon should the french offer to interfere otherwise should they join the rebels, it would be thro fear of being plundered by the Stranger Indians. I some time ago represented a small armed vessel necessary to be under the direction of the commanding officer of this post, as a Sort of respect to the Indians, and to reconoitre the different Bays and Creeks in Lake Michigan also to be ready to send to Detroit on immergency, and finding I could not carry on the service without one I armed the *Welcome* to send to Labay St. Josephs Milwaukee &c as the winds are generally so strong that canoes cannot move even in a fair wind, which makes their passages very tedious on the Lakes. But finding

1 Wisconsin river.— Ed

121 no favorable answer indeed none at all to myself, I dismissed her. I can send such a vessel at [to] St. Josephs and get answer to my letters in eight days or sooner whereas I must not expect it in less than a month if so soon by a Canoe or small boat. The above representation was long before Your Excellency took the command.

Library of Congress

I hope your Excellency is acquainted with the reasons why Sir Guy Carleton ordered me to remain at this post with an hand-ful of men and no other Command, to [with] a Captain of the Regiment and remaining guide removed, from what will in all probability soon become the scene of action if the Rebels are not routed from the Illinois.

I have the honor &c (Signed) A. S. De Peyster .

DE PEYSTER TO HALDIMAND.

Michilimakinac 27 th Oct. 1778.

Sir ,—Soon after my letter of the 24 th inst. was despatched by a light Canoe, Messrs. Langlade and Gautier arrived here and informed me that they were sent up to attend my order. I was surprised they bro t me no letters, but they tell me Your Excellency was at Chamblée and that Lieut. Col. Campbell¹ sent them off lest the weather should set in so as to prevent them getting up. I have come to the resolution to send these Gentlemen off to give every assistance in their power to Lieut. Gov r Hamilton.

¹ Lieut. Colonel John Campbell, of the 57th foot.— Ed

I have provided them with some Goods, which I believe with their presence amongst the Indians will do more good than I could have expected by sending my Belts by the hands of Indians.

Mr. Langlade is to undertake the Grand River, near which the Ottawa's and Chippewa's from the place winter. And Mr. Gautier is to proceed straight to St. Joseph's where he will give orders for the Indians in that neighbourhood to assemble whilst he endeavours to get intelligence of the route ¹²² Mr. Hamilton has taken, so as to be able to join him with all expedition.

Library of Congress

Mr. Hamilton by this means will not meet with any impediments from want o f such assistance as [is] in my power to give him.

Should they find that he is returned to Detroit, they then have orders to cross the country to their old Stations, to keep the Labay and Mississippi Indians in temper & there wait further orders.

I also sent off my Interpreter to St. Joseph's to bring me back necessary intelligence.

At this present Juncture I should have found the benefit of having the Sloop Welcome, as I have been obliged to press from some of the Inhabitants their only serv t to enable me to make out a canoe to transport them to St. Joseph's, and the winds are rather high.

* * * * *

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect, Your Excellency's Host Humble obed
Servant,

(Signed) A. S. De Peyster .

To His Excellency, the Commander in Chief .

DE PEYSTER TO HALDIMAND.

Michilimakinac 29 th Januy 1779.

Sir ,—I did myself the honor to write to your Excellency on the 27 th of October acquainting you with the steps I had taken towards giving assistance to L t Gov r Hamilton having sent Messrs Langlade Gautier & Ains1 is [they have] returned with the following report viz that they were detained on their way by contrary winds, so that they did not reach the mouth of grand river till the Thirteenth day of Novembre, where Mr Langlade landed agreeable to his Intencion. That on their way to St Joseph's they spoke with the Ottawa chiefs who

Library of Congress

declined the expedition for want of previous notice but declared themselves ready in the Spring. That detained by a continuation of bad weather he Ains & Gautier did not

1 Interpreter at Fort Michilimackinac.— Ed

123 arrive at St Joseph's until the second day of December where they found Mr Louis Chevalier who had been twenty two days from Mr Hamiltons little army which passed near the pays plat¹ before he left it that he le Chevalier was informed there that Gebease² the Priest had been at the Post Vincent [Vincennes] & at the Ouia [Fort Ouatenon]³ with a party of rebels & obliged 600 inhabitants to swear Allegiance to the Congress &c & that by the best accounts he could get the rebels at the Illinois did not exceed three hundred men who were ill provided.

1 *Pays plat* (Fr. for flat country) was frequently applied to portage plains, by the French. In Long's *Voyages and Travels* (London, 1791), the term is applied to the portage of two miles between Lake St. Martin and Muddy lake in Manitoba. The particular *pays plat* referred to by De Peyster was the portage between the Maumee and Little river, one of the sources of the Wabash.— Ed

2 Father Pierre Gibault, the French priest at Kaskaskia, who undertook, on behalf of Clark, a mission to Vincennes in July, 1778, and succeeded in inducing its inhabitants to declare for the Americans.— Ed

3 Now Lafayette, Ind.— Ed

P. S.—I should be glad to know if your Excellency will please to allow the officer any pay for his laying out and directing the route at the Portage.⁴

4 Referring to Lieutenant Bennett's expedition to the Grand Portage, at the west end of Lake Superior. Wherever the word "Portage" is used in these letters, without specific mention of locality, reference is had to the Grand Portage. The Grand Portage post was at the head of a bay on the northwest coast of Lake Superior, some five miles above

Library of Congress

(southwest of) the mouth of Pigeon river. From here, there was a carrying place of three leagues (nine miles) in length, northward to a widening of the Pigeon. The Grand Portage settlement was the great halting place of voyageurs and an important depot for the fur trade in that section. At the other end of the trail was another fort, to protect the portage from the north; upon a map of 1737,—the first sent to France, which showed this carrying place—this latter post is called Fort St. Pierre, but by 1800, under English rule, it was styled Fort Charlotte. Grand Portage was estimated to be 900 miles by water from Sault Ste. Marie and 1800 from Montreal (Harmon's *Journal*, Andover, 1820, p. 40). Harmon tells us (p. 41) that, in 1800: "This is the Head Quarters or General Rendezvous, for all who trade in this part of the world; and therefore, every summer, the greater part of the Proprietors and Clerks, who have spent the winter in the Interior, come here with the furs which they have been able to collect, during the preceding season. This [Friday, June 13], as I am told, is about the time when they generally arrive; and some of them are already here. The people who come from Montreal with the goods, go no farther than this, excepting a few who take those articles to the Rainy lake, which are intended for Athabasca, as that place lies at too great a distance from this, to permit people who reside there to come to this place and return, before the winter commences. Those who bring the goods from Montreal, on their return, take down the furs, &c., from the north." After leaving Fort Charlotte, the voyageurs ascended Pigeon river, which is crooked and often widens into lakes, frequent short portages being made to avoid the bends and rapids. The intricate water-courses followed, were what now form the international boundary as far as the Lake of the Woods; and from there, via the Winnipeg river to Lake Winnipeg, whence the parties scattered through the Hudson bay, Assiniboine, Saskatchewan and Athabasca regions, to their respective trading posts. See description of Grand Portage in Carver's *Travels* (ed. 1778), pp. 106,107. The map in Vol. I. of Keating's *Narrative of Major Long's Expedition to the source of St. Peter's River* (Phila., 1824), includes a detailed chart of the route from Lake Superior to Lake Winnipeg, "showing that there are no less than seventy-two portages, viz.: thirty-five westward of Rainy lake and thirty-seven eastward of the same place," The canoeing distance between the mouth of the Pigeon and the mouth

Library of Congress

of the Winnipeg is stated in Keating (ii., p. 144) to be 716 miles; in the same volume, the route is minutely described, pp. 86–150, with a list of portages and *décharges*,—the latter term being applied to partial obstructions, necessitating only the lightening of the canoe.

Edward D. Neill, of St. Paul, writes me as follows: “The Sieur de la Verendrye, in a communication to the Minister of the Marine, at Paris, mentions that on the 26th of August, 1731, he arrived from Montreal with his exploring party `at the Grand Portage of Lake Superior, which is fifteen leagues to the north-west of Kamanistigonia.’ Verendrye and his nephew La Jemeraye were the first to reach Pigeon river, from Grand Portage, on their way to establish a trading post at Rainy lake. After the French established communication between Lake Superior and Lake Winnipeg, it was the great halting place of voyageurs. Count Andriani, of Milan, in 1791, visited this point, and his account of the voyageurs at this place is in Duke de la Rochefoucault Liancourt's *Travels*. David Thompson, the astronomer of the North-West company, in 1797 made observations here. In 1803 the united Hudson Bay and North-West companies erected a post at the mouth of Pigeon river called in compliment to one of their partners,—William McGillivray,—Fort William, and after this Grand Portage lost its importance as a stopping place.”

Grand Portage is now a small lakeside hamlet in Cook county, Minn., on the site of the old post. It is thirty-four miles northeast of Grand Marais, and 240 from Duluth. The inhabitants are chiefly Indians.

The government engineers have lately made some preliminary surveys in the harbor, looking to possible improvements there in the future.— Ed

The above news of Mr Hamiltons having got so far the start being told to the Indians at the grand river, where Langlade had raised about eighty they declined to follow at so great a distance on which Mr Langlade set out for his post at La Baye & Gautier finding that Mr Chevalier had already taken the few Pottawatamia which could be raised at that advanced season to Mr. Hamilton, set out for his post on the Mississipi carrying with them Belts &

Library of Congress

Speeches to exhort the Indians to be ready in the Spring if called upon Your Excellencys answer to my letter of the 21 st Sept. (thro L t Col Bolton) is just come to hand.

I have the honor &c (Signed) A. S. De Peyster .

124

DE PEYSTER TO HALDIMAND.

Michilimakinac 29 th March, 1779.

Sir ,—I did myself the honor to write to your Excellency the 29 th January when I informed you that Langlade had failed in his attempt to move the Indians from their hunting 125 grounds as they heard that L t Gov r Hamilton had got so much the start of them. Since which I received a letter from Mr. Louis Chevalier of St. Joseph's informing [me] that the Pottawatamie were returned home to pass the winter, that they brought him a Letter from the Lieut Governor informing him that he intended not to leave Post Vincent till the spring. I should have been glad to have had a line at the same time. However in compliance with your Excellency's orders to give every assistance in my power, I again ordered the Ottawas & Chippewas to march & send off express to Mr Gautier requiring him to move down with a body of Sabres Toyes [Sakis, Foxes] & Wernippigoes & he by this time should be on the March joined by some active Canadians.

* * * * *

(Signed) A. S. De Peyster .

126

GAUTIER TO DE PEYSTER.

[Translated from the French by Grace Clark.]

To Monsieur Major Depeyster .

Library of Congress

Monsieur ,—Having learned that Governor Hamilton had wintered at the post,¹ in order to continue his expedition, in the spring, I started to give him assistance by the Mississippi with 208 men puants, feauxayoines [Folles Avoine], Renard Outawa and Sauteux; after having paid all the necessary expenses I descended the Mississippi as far as the River la Roche which was the 4th of april where I found a small number of Sacques and Sieur la main Capie² to whom I began to speak for you at which he Stopped his Ears and would hear nothing, even mocking at your threats that you made last autumn to the Sacques and Renards, that if you should see that they were with the Bostoniens you would cut off their Traders; he answered me, he and all the others, that they had their arrows for their support and they were not at all anxious about that. Not satisfied with his insollance they made me release 120 men, and I believe if they had been strong enough they would have seized me and given me over to the Bostonias. I continued on my way with the rest of my party up to where I had an idea as to [I would meet] the Sauvoix [Sauteux] and Sacques of Ouisconsin, who were all there having arrived the 6th . I found none of your children, but I found some Bostonien Sacques. They rejected me after I had spoken to them on your part, having received the Words of the Rebels and even threatened to inform the Bostonnais of my Measures. At the very moment of this parley the news arrived that Governor Hamilton was taken.³ This checked the grumbling in my little camp, and still the puants and the feauxavoines assured me that they would never forget their Father and that they would die rather.

1 Vincennes.— Ed

2 Apparently identical with La Main Cassée, mentioned in Gautier's journal, *ante*, pp. 106, 110.— Ed

3 Clark captured Hamilton at Vincennes, Feb. 25, 1779.— Ed

For [by] that time it was necessary to release the 7 [men] 127 from there, taken by ambush from the Sacques¹ you know this, having had information through la Torteux of what was

Library of Congress

taking place, he was one of my war chiefs. I expect the Puants are going to see you, if Carminis² lays himself out before [about] me I hope you will blow His head off, he did all he could to stop the young Puants, I told Quindinaque that you want to see him to speak to and he promised me that he would come and I withdrew [from him] a Bostonnais Commission which I send you in the letter that I have the honor to write you.

1 “ *Pours lors il falut relacher le 7 de la, raporte a l'embuche des Sacques.*”— Tr.

2 One of the Karrymaunees, a line of chiefs long famous among the Winnebagoes.— Ed

You know that a man named Aungnou killed a Renard woman and he was killed for his crime by the Renards. I hope in a short time to have the honor of giving you an account of my mission and informing you more fully of these rascally tribes. Permit me Monsieur to assure Madame of my regards. I am with profound respect,

Your most humble and most obedient servant, C. Gautier .

De la Baye 19 th April 1779.

Indorsed: “Copy of a letter from Mr. Gautier to Major Depeyster. Received 30 th May, '79 inclosed in the Major's letter of the 13 th May 1779.”

DE PEYSTER TO HALDIMAND.

Michilimakinac 13 th May 1779.

Sir ,—I did myself the honor to write to your Excellency on the 2 nd instant a copy of which Letter I now enclose.

The Chippewas of the Island of Michilimakinac arived here the 8 th from the Grand River and reports that the Ottawas and Grand River Traders are on their way they declare that the news of the Virginians building boats on the Lake Mitchig [Michigan] was the invention

Library of Congress

of some evil minded Indians and that neither themselves nor the Ottawas would listen to the Rebels belt.

128

Mr. Langlade arrived last night and informed me that on his arrival at Labaye he received an order from L t Gov r Hamilton acquainting him that he wintered at Post Vincent therefore required of him and Gautier to join him early in the spring by the Illinois River. That he accordingly set out with some Indians & reached Milwackie¹ where [where] he received accounts of Mr. Hamiltons being taken, when the Indians disheartened would proceed no further. The enclosed Letter from Gautier will give your Excellency an account of his expedition. Mr. Langlade assures me that a Canadian named Benclo at the head of twenty horsemen is traveling through the Town and [towns of the] Sakis Country to purchase horses from [for] Mr. Clark telling the Indians that they will be with three hundred men at Labaye soon. But Mr. Langlade rather believes that they mean to transport themselves to Detroit. The Indians were so much divided that it was not possible to take Benclo and his party.

¹ In Gautier's letter of April 19, just preceding this, and enclosed with it to Haldimand, it is shown that Gautier went over the Fox-Wisconsin water-course and down the Mississippi as far as the mouth of the Rock; and then returned to Green Bay by the same route, on learning of Hamilton's capture. Langlade took the lake-shore trip without Gautier.— Ed

He was informed by a man who came from the Illinois that the Virginians then [there] did not exceed sixty men, that they Were mostly in bad [health] the last Fall with the Maladie du Pays² but were taking [talking] of a great reinforcement.

² Home-sickness.— Ed

Library of Congress

The Canadians who want to return to this Post have leave on taking the Oaths not to serve against the United States. Clarke assures them that he will be here nearly as soon as themselves none are yet arrived.

I don't care how soon Mr. Clarke appears provided he come by Lake Michigan and the Indians prove staunch and above all that the Canadians do not follow the example of their brethren at the Illinois who have joined the Rebels to a man. I am in hopes however that their connection at Montreal will be a check upon them.

If I had armed vessels I could make them constantly coast 129 Lake Michigan to awe the Indians and prevent the Rebels building boats, there is a small sloop here as already reported but no sailors nor will my present garrison admit of any detachment, it not being by the one half sufficient to do the necessary duty here. I shall allow the Traders to come to this Post, but if things do not greatly alter I will not allow one to go the Labay rode.

The Sakis and Reynards seems to be easy about the matter as appears by Gautier's Letter but they will soon open their eyes, if it is possible effectually to restrain that trade on that head as well as how to act in case Detroit is taken, is what I hope I shall receive your full instructions about by a light Canoe. If Detroit should be taken it is evident we have but a dismal prospect, however what can be expected from two subdivisions shall be done, I think I can with propriety call my handfull by that name, when a part are employed at the Canon having nine pieces of Ordnance & only two Artillery men.

I have sent to Sanguina to endeavour to secure six hundred Bushels of Corn for the Indians without which our flower will run short by the fall of the year.

I have the honor &c (Signed) A. S. De Peyster .

P. S. Give me leave to assure your Excellency that nothing can be expected from the Indians without the Troops to head them.

DE PEYSTER TO HALDIMAND.

Michilimackinac , 2 d May 1779.

Sir ,—

* * * * *

The season here has been very open so that we had reason to expect arrivals from the grand River in the Lake Michigan sometime past, but as yet can neither hear of Trader or Indian being at hand. Some Squaws who went at about forty miles from hence to visit their friends, returned with the news that the Virginians were building Boats near Milwakee & that they had sent belts which were accepted by the Ottawas and Chippaways requesting of them to remain 9 130 at the grand river till they the Virginians had taken this Fort [Michilimackinac], and delivered it into the hands of the Indian's old friends the French and that Siggenake¹ the disaffected Milwakee chief was to lead the first division—yesterday [there] arrived a man from the same place who relates that he was informed from [that] the chief Gicee [Gorce] who wintered at the Grand Traverse about forty leagues from this did not believe it, & and sent the Person who brought it back to the Grand river to get further information. Pie further said that he understood that the Virginians were at Chicagou I have dispatched people to make all possible inquiry relative to this news.

1 Onaugesa, mentioned by Augustin Grignon (*Wis. Hist. Coll.*, iii., pp. 290, 292) as being the Menomonee chief at Milwaukee in 1784–85.— Ed

Should they come that way I think there is hopes of their repenting their voyage, as I cannot be persuaded the Indians have so soon forgot their promise, but on the other hand if Detroit falls it must be expected that their friendship will fall with it.

The provisions of this Post turn out very bad great quantities of the Pork appearing evidently to have been condemned before sent up here the pieces being much cut and

Library of Congress

scarcely packed over & that with dry salt. What Pork we serve as good is frequently so rusty that the soldier scarcely gets half his allowance.

I have the honor &c (Signed) A. S. De Peyster .

P. S. I have taken the liberty to inclose a copy of the last condemnation for the month of April.

LIEUT. COLONEL BOLTON TO HALDIMAND.

Niagara , May the 20 th 1779.

Sir ,—

* * * * *

Major De Peyster in a letter dated the 2 nd of May informs me that some squaws went a short time ago to see their relations about forty miles from this they returned with the 131 news that the Virginians are building boats at or near Milwakie, and have sent Belts, which were accepted of by the Ottawas and Chippewas, requesting of them to remain at the Grand River till the Virginians had taken this Fort, and put it into the hands of their old friends the French. A man who arrived yesterday from the same place says, that this news came from the Grand River to the Chief Gorce, who wintered at the Traverse, that Gorce did not believe it, and sent to the Grand River to get further information that the enemy were said to be at the Chickagou and not at Milwaukee, a disaffected chief of Milwaukee (named Sagenake) was to lead the first division. The Major has dispatched people to reconnoitre and get every possible intelligence, he says if they shou'd only come that way, and the Indians keep firm, they may chance to regret their voyage, but should Detroit fall, the friendship of the Indians will fall with it.

* * * * *

Library of Congress

I am &c (Signed) Mason Bolton .

DE PEYSTER TO HALDIMAND.

Michilimackinac the 1 st of June 1779.

Sir ,—On the 24 th Instant I was honored with your Excellency's Letter of the 25th Decem
r 1778. The sending a party to the Gr Portage, is what I had represented to Lieut Colonel
Bolton as by no means safe from so small a Garrison in the present critical situation of
affairs I am glad to find you are of the same opinion.

Your Excellency may depend upon it that I never have nor never shall undertake any
Expence lightly at any Post I may have the honor to command I am extremely sorry to find
that there is a likelihood of the Expences at this Post rather increasing than otherwise as
the Indians are growing very importunate since they hear that the French are assisting the
rebels—The Canadians I fear are of great disservice 132 to Government but the Indians
are perfect Free Masons when intrusted with a secret by a Canadian most of them being
much connected by marriage.

Since my last Letter of the 13 th of May Mr Gautier arrived here with a large band of
Weenippigoes and [Menomonees] who had been with him to the Mississippi I would
fain have had them stay here till I received orders from your Excellency, but they were
impatient least the Chippewas of the Plains and the Sackis should in their absence
disturb their villages. They are gone with promises to bring me some prisoners from the
Kaskaskias, scalps I have positively forbid to prevent cruelty and least they should pawn
old ones or those of innocent persons a deceit I think them often guilty of. The Sioux
Wabasha¹ was on his march to join Mr. Hamilton, but stopt on hearing of his defeat he
has sent the interpreter with his son and some young men with a pipe telling me that he
waits my further orders That he has silenced the Reynards and desires to know if I chuse
he shall strike the Sabres [Sakis] for having had talks with the Rebels which he is ready

Library of Congress

to do. As well as all opposers of His Majesty's Arms. I am sending off some powder and cloathing to his Nation as well as to the Weenippigoes and Menominies to endeavor to keep them firm in our Alliance, if they continue so we have nothing to fear from the Indians of that Quarter, I have been obliged to purchase goods upon this occasion, great part of which will remain in Store. As the assortment I wanted lay in those parcels I was obliged to buy and I hope your Excellency will not think the purchase ill timed it being of the greatest importance to secure these people in our Interest before the Rebels make any impression on them.

1 Wabasha, The Leaf (Fr., *La Feuille*), was leader of the Sioux in the British operations on the upper Mississippi, during the Revolutionary war. See *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, vi., p. 250; vii., p. 176; ix., p. 290. He was father to the Wabasha who figured in the Black Hawk war. His village, like that of his son, was on the present site of Winona, Minn. (*Id.* ii., p. 194).— Ed).

The Ottawas and Chippawas are here they do acknowledge that there was a report spread over the country to their disadvantage but positively deny having entered into 133 articles with the Rebels. I am certain that the Detroit Indians have sent Belts to beg they will observe a neutrality which it is not possible for Indians to do.

Mr. Hamilton's defeat has cooled the Indians in General. I have however a great number to send to Detroit if they should be wanted, as yet no vessel from that Post. Your letter of the 25 Decem r came to me by my returned express.

I have had no letter from Mr. Chevallier of a later date than the 20 th Feb ry wherein he mentioned that the Rebels have employed the Canadians to purchase horses (for to mount their cavalry) in the neighbourhood of Chickagou Mr. Carty¹ who lately gave me Intelligence is now one of the Rebel Captains so poor a creature never entered into any service before, yet he was a very principal actor at Fort Sackwith.²

1 Richard McCarty. licensed from Michilimackinac as a trader to the Illinois. See his letter to De Peyster, June 7, 1778, describing the condition of affairs in his district— *Mich. Pion.*

Library of Congress

Coll., ix., pp. 368, 369. In a report to Governor Jefferson of Virginia, Jan. 24, 1781 (*Cal. Va. State Papers*, i., p. 460), McCarty is spoken of as being in command at Cahokia, for the Americans.— Ed

2 Fort Sackville, the name of the fort in Vincennes.— Ed

* * * * *

I have the honor to be &c (Signed) A. S. De Peyster .

DE PEYSTER TO HALDIMAND.

Michilimackinac 14 th June 1779.

Sir ,—

* * * * *

It will be quite safe and highly necessary that Canoes with goods are sent up to this place to enable me to indulge the Friendly Indians with Traders. Twenty Canoes will be sufficient and care may be taken in their distribution so as to prevent their falling into the Enemy's hands. The same number of Canoes which entered the Lake Superior 134 the last year may enter it this year. I mean those which were for the different stations from St. Mary's keeping the north shore, such may be trusted who are used to Trade to the Peek, Michipiota, Nippigon and the Grand Portage, so into the North West.

Mr. Barthe at St. Mary's may have two Canoes and Mr. Cadot one, included in the twenty for this place.

The Indians are hanging upon me in great numbers to know if they are to be employ'd, I have repeatedly wrote to Captain Lemoult to know if he wants their assistance but have no answer from him. I am loth to send off party's to the Illinois without your express

Library of Congress

orders for doing so, at best it would only be productive of much cruelty, perhaps exercised upon the undeserving, still many small partys will steal off, and I think that I observed the Winnipigoes are to bring in some Prisoners. It was necessary to put them to the test to know if they are our real Friends or not, and to show the Sacks and Reynards that they are so.

Wabasha the Sioux has sent in Rocq the Intepreter with his son and some young men to acquaint me he stopt at the Dog Plains¹ on being informed that Mr. Hamilton was taken & that Gautier had retreated. He desires to know if he shall strike the Sacks and Reynards for having stopt Gautier, and for having listened to the Rebels. It would be by no means prudent to encourage an Indian war, and I hear that three or four hundred Chippewas of the plains (People who n ever come in here) are on their march to attack Wabasha, having lately had some of their people killed by the Sioux.

1 Prairie du Chien.— Ed

I do not recollect any Trader having gone by here without a Pass. I once reported that two men from Montreal had left it on their way to Duport or Michilimakinac, and as they never reached Detroit it was supposed they had entered the Oswego River. This information I got from a Mr. McNamara who I believe did not recollect their names.

I believe the Sieur Alvé [Calvé] to be a very inoffensive man. It would not be amiss to give him a Dollar and a 135 ration a day and send him into the Sack and Reynard country where he has some influence, otherwise I have too many useless people about me, none but the Interpreter who can give me any real assistance. Rocq I send to the Sioux Country.

Mr. Langlade & Mr. Gautier should be kept in pay and in temper, tho' they at present are rather a burthen upon me. To send them upon an Expedition without Troops is doing nothing, and Your Excell y will see by my former letters, how much it is out of my power to spare a man from this place. Those two gentlemen represent that they cannot live at this

Library of Congress

extravagant place upon their allowance having a constant run of Indians who snatch the bread out of their mouths.

They beg of me to represent to Your Excellency that should their friends apply for a pass to send them a Canoe,¹ You will please to grant them one.

¹ The phrase, "send them a canoe," frequently occurring in these letters, means, in this connection, to "send them a canoe-load of goods," for their fur-trade. Neither traders' supplies nor individual travelers were allowed to go into the upper country without a pass from the military authorities; hence the annoyance felt by Major De Peyster upon learning of any infractions of this martial rule.— Ed.

* * * * *

I am with the greatest respect, Sir Your Excellency's most Humil & obedt Servant

A. S. De Peyster

P. S. I have [hear] this moment that the Canoe is setting off.

His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

Indorsed: "rec d at Quebec the 28 th June."

DE PEYSTER TO HALDIMAND.

Michilimackinac 27 th June 1779.

Sir,—Your Excellency's letters of the 30 th April & 6 th May only came to hand on the 24 th instant owing to Leekey Canoes and hard gales on the Lakes.

Library of Congress

I acquainted you lately that I had been obliged to purchase goods. The Indians hung about the Fort in great 136 numbers waiting to hear if they were wanted at Detroit at length the [they] grew tired and all the strangers filled [filled] off to their homes.

I have received your Letters by Detroit and one from Captain Brehem¹ by a traders Batteaux. The answer to which I have dispatched with a light Batteaux and nine oars so that he will know our wants in a few days.

¹ Capt. Diedrick Brehm, Haldimand's aid-de-camp. Brehm had been sent by Haldimand to Detroit, "to get all the Information of the situation, wants, etc., of your Post [Michilimackinac] and what could be done toward its defence" (*Mich. Pion. Coll.*, ix., p. 412). He arrived May 25, and five days later wrote to De Peyster for information. The latter replied under date of June 20 (*Id.*, pp. 386–87).— Ed.

On hearing of Mr. Hamilton's defeat I did all that this sand would allow of to put his Fort in a state of Defence.

The Sand Hills lately reported² are now nearly levelled, so as to prevent any lodgement behind them.

² In letter to Brehm, June 20.— Ed.

By credible people just arrived from the Illinois I have the following accounts so late as 24 th of April. Clarke was returned from Post Vincent with most of his people, and one Mr. George³ was also arrived from Carolina with forty men, and they talked of a reinforcement under the Command of Montgomery.⁴

³ Capt. Robert George, who had arrived at Kaskaskia, from New Orleans, with forty-one men, while Clark was absent on his Vincennes expedition.— Ed.

⁴ John Montgomery, one of Clark's four captains in the Kaskaskia campaign.— Ed.

Library of Congress

The Kaskaskias no ways fortified. The Fort being still a sorry picketed enclosure, round the Jesuits Colledge with two plank Houses at opposite Angles, mounting two four pounders each on the Ground Floor and a few Swivels mounted in Pidgeen [pigeon] Houses.⁵ The Militia are about one hundred and fifty men, serving much against their inclination. Provisions were growing very scarce, and no supplys of goods from below, the Fort at the River Natches having stoped their convoys, thither Clarke proposed to march when he got answers to some letters.

⁵ William F. Poole, in Winsor's *Narr. and Crit. Hist. Amer.* (vi., pp. 719–721), clearly proves that Fort Gage was in Kaskaskia.— Ed.

137

The Natches is defended by Royalists who had been ruined by Willings depredations.¹

¹ During February and March, 1778, Capt. James Willing, of Philadelphia, at the head of about one hundred American rangers, made conquest of the English settlements at and in the neighborhood of Natchez, Miss. The property of non-residents and British officials was destroyed or confiscated and the loyalists driven out. Cf. Bancroft's *Hist. U. S.* (ed. 1885), v., pp. 315, 816; also the very unfavorable view of Willing in Claiborne's *Mississippi*, i., pp. 117–124.— Ed.

The Rebels have had several Councils with the Indians, have nothing to give them and treat them with great contempt. Their policy is to intimidate them since they cannot carress them. No expedition was talked of towards this post, they are right for as sure as they attempt it they will never get back. The country affording nothing for strangers to subsist upon.

One Linctot a Trader I find has entered into their service. He has too much to say amongst the Indians, every method should therefore be used to get him into our hands, for which purpose, and to reconnoitre I send off Gautier with a party of Indians at Les Pee² a small

Library of Congress

Fort on the Illinois River, where he is at present with some other traders who had better be here. Gautier has orders to Burn the Fort which will shew the Rebels that all the Indians do not intend to remain Neuter, and effectually intimidate them from attempting an Expedition this way. The Pay is about Eighty Leagues from the Kaiskaskias.

2 De Peyster's method of writing Le Pé, an abbreviation for "The Peoria." He phonetically spells it "The Pay," a few lines further on. The post, probably a mere stockade for the immediate protection of the traders, was "situated on the northwest shore of Lake Peoria, about one mile and a half above the lower extremity or outlet of the lake" (*Amer. State Papers*, iii., p. 421),—within the present city limits of Peoria, Ill. See also Matson's *Pioneers of Illinois*, pp. 216, 217. Peoria was, at this time, indifferently styled Lee Pee, Pay, Pé, Au Pay, or Opa.— Ed.

Your Excellency refers me to the Ordinances of the Provence for '77 respecting the affairs of Mr. Howard.³ I see

3 May 6, Haldimand notified De Peyster that Joseph Howard had set off to trade, presumably at Michilimackinac and the Grand Portage, without a license; and directing him "as authorized by my ordinance of the Provence for that purpose passed in March, 1777" to seize Howard's goods and canoes (*Mich. Pion. Coll.*, ix., p. 358). June 14, De Peyster (*Id.*, pp. 383, 384) wrote his superior that the order had been carried into effect, and "the whole of his goods seized and lodged in the King's store." Howard finally obtained security at Montreal and recovered his effects.— Ed.

138 thereby he is entitled to give security, which I shall take and transmit it to Montreal.

I have the Honor to be (Signed) A. S. De Peyster .

HALDIMAND TO DE PEYSTER.

Quebec July 3 rd 1779.

Library of Congress

Sir ,—I have rec'd both your letters of the 14 th past the necessity which you represent, that goods should be sent to your Post, and to Lake Superior, and the safety with which you say, it may be done to His Majesty's Service, has induced me to grant passes for the number of Canoes you have specified in your letter. I shall depend upon your judgment and experience in the distribution of them. laying the Traders under such restrictions as will most conduce to the Interest of the Public Service.

You judged right in not employing the Indians against the Illinois, since it is your opinion that Cruelties alone would be the result, I would not however absolutely discourage their Incursions into that settlement, as their appearing firm in our interest may have a good effect, not only in the eyes of the Rebels, but of the inhabitants who are so disaffected to us, besides it may be the means of procuring useful intelligence, which you will strongly recommend to, and endeavour to effect by means of these parties—Every caution necessary against cruelty, I am persuaded you will observe.

Wabashas proposal is a very uncommon one from an Indian and tho' it would, as you justly observe, be very imprudent to adopt it Yet the zeal he has manifested merits our attention.

You will naturally prevent as much as in your power, 139 the breach expected between the Chippewas and Sioux which might deprive us of the Service of many warriors, should we have occasion for them, but perhaps be turned to some account against us, by the Rebels

Agreeable to your recommendation of the Sieur Calveé, I have ordered that he may have a dollar and a Ration pr day & to be employed as you have proposed.

Messrs Langlade and Gautier have high pay. I must think of raising it, but you may as you judge necessary reinburse them in any little matter of Provision, they may occasionally find indispensibly necessary to furnish to Indians.

Library of Congress

* * * * *

(Signed) F. H.

P. S.—In order to convince some Reynards and others of your Indians, who wintered at Montreal, of the falsity of a report propagated by the disaffected Canadians that a French fleet would certainly arrive this Spring to retake the Country, I ordered them down here to be present at the arrival of our Fleet. They are come, and I enclose to you my speech to them which you will deliver to their Nations, making such Additions as you may from local circumstances judge necessary. I shall keep them untill the Fleet arrives and on their return they will I hope, have it in their power amply to confirm what is set forth therein.

HALDIMAND TO DE PEYSTER.

Quebec 13 th July 1779.

Sir ,—By the bearer Mr. Calvé I have an opportunity of more [fully] answering your letter of the 27 th of June, the receipt of which, I acknowledged by yesterday's Post.

I am obliged to you for Intelligence from the Illinois. I am pleased to find it so favorable, and that your Post is in such security, you will no doubt continue whatever work you may think necessary to preserve it in that state.

I much approve of your destroying Fort Pay and I hope Mr. Gautier will be able to effect all the purposes of his 140 charge From the poverty of the Rebels in that Quarter I think there is little to apprehend. Intercepting their supplies should be the chief object of our attention, it is a service which the Indians, I should think, would cheerfully undertake in their hopes of plunder.

Mr. Calvé has presented to me a claim on Government amounting to 3,699 Livres, besides a Sallary from the year 1776 inclusive, I have never heard that the former was due or

Library of Congress

the latter promised to him, but I find from Colonel Campbell and Mr. Gautier that the man has been usefull and that it is still in his power to be very serviceable to Government in either or both cases, I should be sorry not to reward his merit, I therefore must desire you will give me every information in your power relative to him—and in the meantime as it is represented that you sent them and that his interest suffered much by his coming down, I have paid him a dollar per day as Interpreter for one year only, and have given him a Licence for one Canoe, exclusive of his share of the Trade. He declined my offer, recommended by you of a dollar per day, as Interpreter, saying that it would interfere with his Commercial Views.

I have forwarded Rum for the General Consumption of the Upper Posts, and am under the necessity of repeating my requests to the officers Commanding to observe the greatest œconomy in the distribution of it, seeing the amazing price charged by the traders for that article.

I likewise wish to refer you to a letter upon the subject of flour which I find from all quarters, there is the greatest necessity to attend to this year, it having been put up warm and is consequently subject to damage. Some large room should be found to spread and air it on, in [for] two or three days, and then to be repacked. As soon as the Fleet arrives I shall despatch L t Gov r Sinclair to relieve you.

(Signed) F. H.

141

LIEUT. GOVERNOR SINCLAIR¹ TO BREHM.

¹ Patrick Sinclair, in October, 1758, entered the British army as ensign, in the second battalion, 42d Highlanders. In 1759, he was wounded at Guadalope, West Indies. Being ordered to America, he became a lieutenant, July 27, 1760. Because of his regiment being ordered back to the West Indies, in October, 1761, he exchanged into the 15th foot, serving in America until that regiment returned to England, in 1768. Being promoted to a

Library of Congress

captaincy, April 13, 1772. Sinclair asked for, but failed to obtain, permission to return to America; the following year, therefore, he retired. In 1775, he received the appointment of lieutenant governor and Indian superintendent of Michilimackinac and dependencies, but upon landing in New York was taken a prisoner; summoned, August 3, before the provincial congress on charge of being commissioned to employ the Indians of the Northwest in coercing the colonies; sent to Long Island as a paroled prisoner, and in March, 1776, allowed to return to England. In the summer of 1779, he was again sent to take charge of the post of Michilimackinac, and arrived at his destination October 4, succeeding De Peyster, who in turn succeeded Hamilton, at Detroit. Sinclair served at Michilimackinac until 1782. April 1, 1780, he was commissioned captain in the first battalion, 81th foot (Royal Highland Emigrants), and June 12, 1782, became major. He rose through successive grades, until July 25, 1810, when he was promoted to be lieutenant general. He died in 1820, at that time the oldest officer of his rank in the army.—Ed.

Michilimackinac 29 th Oct r 1779.

Dear Brehm ,—as this may be the last opportunity that will offer this season, I beg leave to trouble you with some things I wish the General to be acquainted with early enough to know His Excellency's Pleasure in the Spring respecting all or any of them.

Finding the Disposition of the Indians in Lake Michigan very wavering & several Depots of Corn in the rivers there, I sent on the 21 st Inst. the Sloop “Felicity” with a carefull man Mr. Robinson as Pilot for the Lake two Canadians well acquainted with the Rivers, & Mr. Gautier, Intrepreter, with some small presents for the Indians, directing them to purchase all the grain Grease & Provision in that country, on the credit of the Merchants & Traders here & to use that of Government if necessary, that where they met with refractory disaffected persons they were to seize upon the corn 142 giving a receipt, for what they could lodge in the vessel & to destroy the rest. Mr. Gautier carries a string of wampum to the Chief of Michlc Island, to tell him that we are to cut down some brush this winter, in

Library of Congress

order to judge whether we can flatter him with any assurance of making use of his Island, it seems he was for it, I have ordered Mr. Gautier to exhort the Indians to good behaviour during the winter, & to tell any of them who are desirous of going to war, that an Ottawa Chief Minable and a Chipewa Chief Machiquewish¹ with select warriors goes from this to act in concert with the Scioux's, Sac's & Rhenards against the Rebels on the Illenois & in that quarter—that their operations will be directed against Bodies of Armed Men and against Forts or strong holds by Blockade as that [those] Garrisons are dependant for their daily Bread on the Inhabitants who are wearied out of their Demands (such are the orders sent to Rocque & Calvé Interpreters by a Mr. La Croix) and that their services tending to these objects will be rewarded. I have sent several small craft into Lake Huron to bring in all the Corn &c on its banks.

¹ The captor of Michilimackinac in 1763. See Draper's sketch of "Matchekewis," *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, vii., pp. 188–194.— Ed.

I beg to inform the General that I have given a Copy of the inclosed instructions to Mr. Jean Baptiste Cadot of St. Mary's, a man who was much esteemed by Sir William Johnson & paid for several years by the Crown. He has always maintained a good character in this Country, rendered services in the Indian Commotion [of] "63," he has great influence with the Indians, & is considered by them as a great Village Orator besides. St. Mary's is a pass deserving some attention & will be more so when the General receives fuller information relative to the Grande Portage & the North West. I cannot pronounce on their design, but they have endeavoured to hide from General Carleton how easy it was to supply the Illinois & Mississippi from the South side of Lake Superior the wretched conduct of the people in that Country this years disgrace us, and may hurt the Kings Service. The Indians showed uncommon forbearance and a manly open conduct theirs the reverse.

143

One Pierre Durrand who has been four years in the Illinois Country arrived here with 120 Packs of Furs & expects in the Spring by his Clerk Michael Bello one hundred more. From

Library of Congress

several unfavourable reports of both I examined his papers very strictly (amongst which are none that required any summary proceeding). However he is made to enter into bond with two responsible men for £1000 sterg., not to aleniate by sale, gift or otherwise any part of his Property, but what may be requisite for his maintenance before the 1 st May next. If anything appears then, or within that time, much against him, the terms of the Bond shall be Extended to the General's decision on their conduct. I shall send down in the Spring (Mr. Durrand not wishing to go sooner) the Rebel Paper Dollars found in his possession “the amount of 180 Bills in favour of a Jean Baptist for 447 Dollars, in favor of a Jean Baptiste La Croix 68 Dollars, all drawn by a Colonel Clarke on the Rebel States. Also a Certificate from a Rebel Major that Michael Bello his Clerk, had taken the Oaths to their Congress. In palliation of these interferences with the Rebels, Mr. Durrand says that he was obliged to give his goods & take their paper money, and that he was so much afraid of his property as to supplicate Don Leyba a [the] Spanish Lt. Governor at Pencour¹ to allow him to become a subject to His Catholic Majesty. Mr. Durrands petition will be sent with the other papers, and any information that may come hereafter. As certainly the General will not permit Individuals to negociate Bills of Exchange & things of that nature with the Rebels.

¹ St. Louis. The French nickname “Pain Court” (phonetically spelled Pencour by the English) is, literally, “short loaf”—having reference to the poverty of its early inhabitants. It is said to have been applied to St. Louis by the people of the neighboring French settlements, in remembrance of an impoverished parish in France. (Scharf's *Hist. St. Louis*, p. 165.)

Monsr Durrand, upon oath, relates the affairs of the Illinois to be much in the state represented by Major De Peyster to His Excellency excepting that there is no Fort at the Pé.² He left that place on the 12 th of July last, and saw a Mr.

² It had been burned by Gautier, during the early summer. See *ante*, pp. 187, 139.— Ed.

Library of Congress

144 Langto with 40 Rebel Canadians, who were mounted, in that Settlement in March, for Post St. Vincents. the day before he left it. He says that the R [Rebel] Garrison at Cascaskias consists of a few sick men and young giddy recruits from the Country near it. That the Priest Gebou [Gibault] and one Mayette a Canadian are very active in the Rebel Interests.

* * * * *

Yours, Pat k Sinclair .

SINCLAIR TO BREHM.

Michilimackinac 15 th Feby 1780.

Dear Brehm ,—

* * * * *

It is most probable that as their [the rebels'] attempts agst. the Center posts of the Communication did not succeed last year, that they will begin with the weakest flank this year. Therefore on the same principle that I wished for more Canadians in the Upper Country, I will use my utmost endeavours to send away as many as I can of the Indians to attack the Spanish Settlements as low down as they possibly can, in order to procure the assistance of the others at home. I am so perfectly convinced of the General's Geographical as well as other knowledge that I do not know where to look for the cause of a doubt about giving some aid to General Campbell from this Quarter, but in His Excellency's [Haldimand's] opinion of some want in me—and that so material a want that I ought to be considered as a very unfit person for this place—the most advanced on the Continent, if it is so.

Lieut Govr. Hamiltons disaster has nothing in it to make the Scioux and other nations far to the West-ward, even to recollect the circumstance, many of them never heard of it. The

Library of Congress

short sighted harpies, which necessity has thrown into the service dwell upon the stories they hear from fretfull bands of Delawares, Mascoutins, and Kicapous near where the Event happened.

145

Admit that the Disaster has all the supposed consequent misfortunes, it is still more necessary for us to engage the Indians to take a part which will at once declare their Enmity to the Party they are engaged to act against, and make it more difficult for their French Friends to effect a Reconciliation should inattention or neglect leave room for the change on our part.

On the day after I received the extract of Lord George Germain's letter,¹ with a part of the General's [Haldimand's] letter to Colonel Bolton which Major De Peyster very properly forwarded, I sent a War Party engaged by the Lieut Cadot to be in readiness by the South Side of Lake Superior into the Country of the Scioux, a warlike people undebauched, under the authority of a chief named Wabasha of very singular & uncommon abilities, who can raise 200 men with ease, accustomed to all the attention and obedience required by discipline.

¹ Spain declared war against Great Britain, May 8, 1779, and in July her American subjects were authorized to attack Natchez and other English ports on the east bank of the Mississippi. Lord George Germain, secretary for the colonies, wrote to Haldimand, June 17, informing him of the action of Spain and ordering him to attack New Orleans and the other Spanish ports on the river, in coöperation with an expedition under Brig. General Campbell, who was to proceed up the Mississippi to Natchez with an army and fleet. Haldimand issued these orders in a circular letter to all the Western governors. De Peyster forwarded it from Detroit to Sinclair, at Michilimackinac, under date of Jan. 22, 1780. Sinclair refers to the receipt of this communication.— Ed.

Library of Congress

I have also wrote to a Monsr. Rocque, an interpreter paid by the Crown, for that nation, enclosing one of Genl. Haldimand's printed commissions, with a power from myself for enabling Wabasha to draw some necessaries from Rocque, to raise a body of his own Indians, and of any others, whether Indians or whites, which he may choose to add to his Suite. I have recommended to him to lose very little time in getting as low down the Mississippi as the Natchez, to take for his interpreter amongst our Friends there a Mr. [John] Key who I have instructed to put himself under Wabasha's command and to serve him in that capacity of a commissary, to carefully attend to the accounts which he 10 146 may receive of any body of our Troops coming up the River Mississippi, and to consider well the People he may have occasion to confide in before he takes that step, to point out to Wabasha, which I have done also, by letter to Rocque, that no Difficulties can occur from the want of Provision—both sides being well stored with cattle and game, and that the difficulty of remounting the stream can never be fatal as he has the Two Florida's & the Natchez for a retreat, should he at once think of proceeding as low as New Orleans. But he will be able to get information at the Natchez [so] that, if he did not hear of an English army coming up the Mississippi to [he could] attack by surprise any of the Spanish Forts, and by assault [could capture] any of their exposed Parties, settlements or Villages.

By the Extracts from Lord George Germain's & from the General's letters sent to me, I am a loss to know whether this preparation may not be too early on account of want of secresie in the people I have employ'd, and from their getting too near Orleans before the arrival of the Brigadier [Campbell].

Or, on the other hand, they may be too late, which, will I hope be the case to [for] promoting the Conquest of the Town itself. As afterwards they can act against the Rebels on this side which I have pointed out to them. I have confidence in and hopes of their Leader, as Wabasha is allowed to be a very extraordinary Indian and well attached to His Majesty's Interest.

Library of Congress

Being at a loss, as I said, in point of time, I have supposed the Army for that service will arrive before Orleans about the first of May. Our information on such occasions requires to be very pointed, from the distance we have to hunt for our means of executing the wish of our Superiors.

Mr. Hamilton's disaster proceeded from want of system, uncertain information & want of attention in others as much as from the precipitancy of the measures he took himself, and the want of a regular district correspondence will ever produce such ill effects.

* * * * *

I am Dear Brehm with regard & esteem yours very sincerely

Pat k Sinclair .

147

SINCLAIR TO HALDIMAND.

Sir ,—I have the honour to inform Your Excellency, that in compliance with My Lord George Germain's requisition in the Circular Letter sent from Detroit, on 22 d January, I sent, on the day after its arrival here, a War Party of Indians (for some time past in readiness) to the Country of the Scioux to put that nation in motion under their own chief Wabasha, a man of uncommon abilities. They are a People undebauched addicted to War, & Jealously attached to His Majesty's Interest. Their Force is considerable & their situation very favorable from its proximity to the River Mississippi. Mons. Rocque, the King's Interpreter for them will probably attend Wabasha, I have ordered a Mr Key to act as their English Interpreter & Commissary. They are directed to proceed with all dispatch to the Natchez & to act afterwards [as] circumstances may require, & as I have pointed out more fully to the Sieur Rocque I shall send other bands of Indians from hence on the same service, as soon as I can with safety disclose the object of their Mission. I am at a loss to judge, in point of time, & can only hazard an opinion that the Brigadier & his Army will be at

Library of Congress

the place of their destination some time in May. I beg leave to refer Your Excellency to my other letter of this date & to Cap; Brehm for further information.

I have the honour to be with respect Sir, Your Excellency's Most obed t & most humble Serv t Pat k Sinclair L t Gov r of Michilimackinac.

Michilimackinac, 15 th Feb y 1780.

SINCLAIR TO HALDIMAND.

Michilimackinac 17 th Feb y 1780.

Sir ,—Since my letter of the 15th Inst the arrival of an Indian chief personally acquainted with me, affords me an opportunity, earlier than I expected, of ordering Mr. Hesse, a Trader and a man of character (formerly in the 60 th Reg t to assemble the Minominés, Puants, Sacks & Rhenards, in 148 the neighborhood & to take Post at the Portage of the Ouisconsing's & Foxes Rivers, there to collect all the Canoes and Corn in the Country, for his own and for the use of the nations higher up, who will be ordered to join him at the Confluence of the Rivers Mississippi & Ouisconseing. Mr. Hesse is ordered not to move from his first stand, until I send him instructions by Sergt. [J. F.] Phillips of the 8 th Reg t , who will set out from this on the 10 th of March with a very noted Chief Machiquawish & his band of Indians. For want of a Cypher & to assist the Serjeant, I am unwillingly obliged to send a Private of the Kings Reg t , a Highlander, writing in that language to the Brigadier.

The reduction of Pencour, by surprise, from the easy admission, of Indians at that place, and from assault from those without, having for its defence, as reported, only 20 men & 20 brass Cannon, will be less difficult than holding it afterwards. To gain both these ends the rich furr Trade of the Missouri River, the Injuries done to the Traders who formerly attempted to partake of it, & the large property they may expect in the Place will contribute.

Library of Congress

The Scious shall go with all dispatch as low down as the Natchez, and as many intermediate attacks, as possible, shall be made. We will endeavour a system and connection in directing their operations to the service in view.

I have only to add that, I am with the greatest respect Sir Your Excellency's most obed t & most humble Serv t

Pat k Sinclair L t Gov r of Michilimackinac.

General Frederick Haldimand .

P. S. I have told Mr. Hesse & all the Traders to observe strict Œconomy & I have assured them that any pecuniary advantages they may deny themselves, in making all the same compleat preparations, shall be amply made up to them in a better and surer way.

149

SINCLAIR TO HALDIMAND.

[No date; but apparently written in February, 1780.]

Sir ,—

* * * * *

A supply of Indian Presents is wanted very early—In that Department a Mons r Langlade with a Capt ns Commission from Gen l Carleton, a Mr. Gautier (Interpreter in the room of Mr. Ainsea, a man of abilities allowed to retire by Major De Peyster) are men of no understanding, application or steadiness, though I believe well disposed to undertake services which I cannot confide in either. As no accident of any kind has happened to any sett of People here since Major De Peyster left this, The returns will go agreeably to your Excell y orders, later in the spring.

Library of Congress

I have prepared nine large Belts Geographically descriptive of the strides made in Colonization, of ours and the Spanish situation on the Mississippi, & placed two Indian figures with joined hands & raised axes in the Country between this & that River—It serves to please them—

I have the honer to be with respect Sir—Your Excell y's most obed t Humble Servant

Pat k Sinclair L t Gov r of Michilimackinac.

BREHM TO SINCLAIR.

Quebec April 17 th 1780.

Sir ,—

* * * * *

His Excellency very much approves your having sent to collect the Corn in the Depots made by the Indians upon Lake Michigan & Huron, as a serviceable measure to increase the Stock of Provisions & a very proper precaution to prevent supplies being formed for the Enemy's use—nevertheless in these critical Times, you should be extremely careful to avoid giving any grounds of offense to the Indians.

150

His Excellency will be glad of every information you can procure relative to the Pass of St. Mary's, the Grand Portage &c and particularly the advantages you hint at by supplying the Illinois & Mississippi, from the South side of Lake Superior, and the most likely means of correcting the abuses of the People in that Country, whose conduct you so much complain of in these Inquiries.

* * * * *

Library of Congress

I am, &c., (Signed) D. Brehm , Aid de Camp.

MRS. LANGLADE TO HALDIMAND.

[Translated from the French by Grace Clark.]

My General ,—It is to you alone that I can apply for permission to have a canoe to go to M. de Langlade my Husband, who desires me and who has been for several years in the service of his Majesty, at the upper posts and is now at Michilimakinac; The Zeal of his service and his disinterestedness have made his fortune so small that I have no other ressource than to entreat you to command Mons. Campbell to pay me the six months of his salary which will fall due next month, in order that I may make some small provision for this Hard journey.

The uprightness and The Devotion with which M. de Langlade has served his Majesty for twenty years on different occasions make me hope that His Excellency will not refuse me this favor, he can see a Sketch of his services in the most gracious Letter of His Excellency General Gage, At the time of the defeat of the fort at Michilimakinac, a copy of which I Add here, not daring to intrust The original to the post office

I am with the most profound Respect My General The most humble & most obedient
Servant of your Excellency

Dourana Langlade .

Montreal 22 nd May 1780.

151

SINCLAIR TO HALDIMAND.

Sir ,—Your Excellency was informed by my letter of February last, that a Party was to leave this Place on the 10 th of March to engage the Indians to the Westward in an attack

Library of Congress

on the Spanish & Illinois Country. Seven Hundred & fifty men including Traders, servants and Indians, proceeded with them down the Mississippi for that purpose on the 2nd day of May.

During the time necessary for assembling the Indians at La Prairie du Chien, detachments were made to watch the River to intercept craft coming up with provisions and to seize upon the people working in the lead mines. Both one and the other were effected without any accident.

Thirty six Minomies (at first intended as an escort) have brought to this place a large armed Boat, loaded at Pencour, in which were twelve men & a Rebel Commissary.¹

¹ Early in March, 1780, Charles Gratiot, then resident at Cahokia, sent a barge-load of goods and provisions to Prairie du Chien, for the purposes of trade. But in April, when off the mouth of Turkey river, thirty miles below its destination, it was seized and plundered by the Indians whom Sinclair had incited. As stated in Sinclair's letter, the crew and boat were sent on to Michilimackinac. In 1781, the boatmen brought suit for their wages, the charge being made that Gratiot was in collusion with the enemy, and that the contents of the barge proved the main supplies for the support of the Indians in their advance upon St. Louis. Gratiot made an elaborate and successful defense, and the suit became *un cause célèbre* in St. Louis. As a matter of fact, he was aiding the Americans with supplies. For biographical sketch of Gratiot, see *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, x., pp. 239–242, 262–264.— Ed.

From the mines they have brought seventeen Spanish & Rebel Prisoners, & stopp'd Fifty Tonns of Lead ore and from both they obtained a good supply of Provisions. The Chiefs Machiquawish and Wabasha have kindled this spirit in the Western Indians.

Captain Langlade with a chosen Band of Indians and Canadians will join a party assembled at Chicago to make his attack by the Illinois River, and another party are sent to watch the Plains between the Wabash and the Mississippi.

Library of Congress

152

I am now in Treaty with the Ottawas about furnishing their quota to cut off the Rebels at Post St. Vincents, but as they are under the management of two Chiefs, the one a drunkard and the other an avaricious trader. I met with Difficulties in bringing it about. Thirty Saguinah Warriors are here in readiness to join them, and the Island Band can furnish as many more.

The enclosed papers will show Your Excellency the arts practiced on the Indians by the Rebels, & French Emissaries.

I have the honour to be Sir, Your Excellency's most obed t & most Humble Servant

Pat k Sinclair L t Gov r .

Michilimackinac 29 th May 1780.

P. S.—Serjt. Phillips of the 8 th Reg mt who has my warrant to act as the Lieut during Your Excellency's Pleasure will Garrison the Fort at the Entrance of the Mississippi1 Captain Hesse will remain at Pencour, Wabasha will attack Misere [Genevieve] & the Rebels at Kacasia. Two vessels leave this on the 2 nd of June to attend Machigwawish who returns by the Illenois River with Prisoners. The small Vessels remain at Milwaké with some provision after visiting the Pottawatamies [east] side of the Lake to give the alarm expected at St. Josephs, at least by Chevalier.

1 Prairie du Chien.— Ed.

All the Traders who will secure the Posts on the Spanish side of the Mississippi during the next winter have my promise for the Exclusive Trade of the Missouri During that time—and that their cannoes will be forwarded.

Library of Congress

The two Lower Villages of the Illenois are to be laid under contribution for the support of their different Garrisons, & the two upper villages are to send Cattle to La Bay to be forwarded to this place to feed the Indians on their return.

A part of the Menominis who are come here, some Puants, Sacks & Rhenards go immediately to watch the Lead mines. Orders will be published at the Illenois for no person to go there, who looks for receiving Quarter, and the 153 Indians have orders to give none to any without a British Pass. This requires every attention & support being of the utmost consequence.

Indorsed: "From Lieut Gov r Sinclair Commanding at Michilimackinac of the 29th of May. Rec'd by Express (St Germain) 11th of June with several Enclosures."

SINCLAIR TO HALDIMAND.

Sir ,—

* * * * *

I propose sending a Captain of Militia to St. Joseph's, one to La Bay & one to St. Mary's. These are to be the Traders at these Posts, & to have a little Rum only on account of Government, with an equipment, for such men as will mount a guard there & be ready to serve when called upon.

Your Excellency will perceive by the Letters from Pencour & St. Joseph's, the frequency of their correspondence. Mr. Chevallier will certainly endeavour to introduce a French or Rebel party at St. Joseph's if our movements do not take place before Autumn. The Pottawatimies have struck, it is true, but for a private insult offered to them last year.

I mentioned to Captain Brehm a Mons r Durrand who arrived here in October last. He serves as a guide for the Illenois Party under Capt. Langlade & leaves his Property here

Library of Congress

as a security for his conduct—his Paper Dollars & Rebel Bills are enclosed under this cover amounting to 695 Dollars.

I have the honour to be Sir, with Respect Your Excellency's most obed t & most humble Serv t .

Pat k Sinclair , L t Gov r .

Michilimackinac, 29 th May, 1780.

P. S.—As there are no Private Bills of Exchange here, I cannot agreeable to orders, draw for any money, tho' at this time my Promissory notes are in Circulation for near Two Thousand Pounds, New York Currency.

Pat k Sinclair , L t Gov r .

154

SINCLAIR TO BOLTON.

Michilimakinac June 4 th 1780

Sir ,—

* * * * *

The two vessels are returned from Lake Michigan with a part of the Indians & Volunteers on the attack against the Illinois, scarcity of Provisions obliged them to return by different routes, some by the Mississippi, some through the country between Lake Michigan and that River, and some, as directed by Chigagoe.

They have brought off Forty-three Scalps, thirty-four prisoners, Black and Whites & killed about 70 Persons. They destroyed several hundred cattle, but were beat off on their attacks both sides the River, at Pencour and at Cahokias, owing to the treachery of Mr.

Library of Congress

Calvé & the Sacks & Renards (for whom he is paid by the crown as Interpreter) His partner in commerce a Mons r Ducharme has kept pace with him, in preferring the little underhand commerce of that country to the advantages I held out to them all, in promising them the Trade of the Missouri, provided they could gain & Garrison the Illinois.

* * * * *

That want of secrecy which is and must always be hurtful to the service, I cannot help lamenting upon this occasion.

The Spaniards received their Information of the meditated attack against the Illinois in the month of March last, and threw up in consequence of it a Breastwork round a Store House.

The Winipagoe Indians without exception, attempted to storm it & lost a Chief & three men on the spot, four are wounded & one of them (I fear) mortally.

They are enraged against the backwardness of the Canadians, and the base conduct of the Sacks, who have been debauched by the Rebels on account of their lead mines, & by the Traders in their Country, who drew advantage from them.

Indorsed: "Copy. Extracts of Letters from L t Gov r Sinclair to L t Col. Bolton."

155

LIEUT. CLOWES1 TO BOLTON.

1 George Clowes, of the 8th regiment of foot.— Ed.

Michilimackinac , 4 th June, 1780.

Sir ,—as no vessel is yet arrived from Detroit, I seize this opportunity to inform you from a request of the Lieut. Governor I have ordered Sergt. Phillips & Private McDonald &

Library of Congress

Creige on command towards the Mississippi, the former in Quality of Lieut., the others as Sergeants. I make no doubt but before this they have arrived at their destination with success—for particulars I refer you to the L t Governor.

* * * * *

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obed t humble serv t G. Clowes .

Indorsed: "From Lieut. Clowes to Lieut Colonel Bolton, 3 d June."

SINCLAIR TO HALDIMAND.

Sir ,—I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the two vessels sent into Lake Michigan have returned.

They fortunately carried from this a force sufficient to enable the Party retiring from the Illinois by Chicago to pass with safety through a Band of Indians in the Rebel Interest & to embark in security, Some in canoes & some on board the vessels, The Others retired in two Divisions, one by the Mississippi with Monsieur Calvé, who allowed the prisoners taken by the Sacks & Outagamies to fall into the hands of the enemy. The other Division penetrated the country between Lake Michigan & the Mississippi & are arrived here with their prisoners. Two hundred Illenois Cavalry arr'd at Chicago five days after the vessels left it. On the 26 th of May Mr Hesse with the Winipigoes, Scioux, Ottawa, Ochipwa, Iowa & a few of the Oatagamies, Sacks, Mascoutins, Kickapous, & Pottawatamies.

Twenty of the Volunteer Canadians sent from this, and a very few of the Traders and the servants made their attack against Pencour & the Cahokias. The two first 156 mentioned Indian nations would have stormed the Spanish Lines if the Sacks and Outagamies under their treacherous leader Mons r Calvé had not fallen back so early, as to give them but too well grounded suspicions that they were between two Fires. A Mons r Ducharme & others who traded in the country of the Sacks kept pace with Mons r Calvé in his perfidy. They

Library of Congress

have long shared the Profits arising from the Lead Mines & from a commerce with the Illinois. The Attack, unsuccessful as it was, from misconduct & unsupported I believe by any other against New Orleans with the advancess made by the Enemy on the Mississippi, will still have its good consequences. Many of the Indians are entered & many are riveted in our interest. The Traders who would not assist in extending their Commerce cannot complain of its being circumscribed to necessary bounds, and the Indians who received a profusion of Presents without Distinction will now be Discriminated.

The Winnipigoes had a chief & three men killed & four wounded, I fear one of them mortally. They are the only sufferers.

The Rebels lost an officer & three men killed at the Cahokias & five Prisoners.

At Pencour sixty eight were killed & eighteen Blacks & white people made Prisoners. Amongst whom [were] several good Artificers many Hundreds of Cattle were destroyed & Forty three scalps are brought in. There is no doubt can remain from the con current testimony of the Prisoners, that the enemy received Intelligence of the meditated attack against the Illinois, about the time I received a copy of my Lord George Germain's Circular Letter. A like disaster cannot happen next year, and I can venture to assure your Excellency that one Thousand Scioux, without any mixture from neighbouring tribes, will be in the field in April under Wabasha (if no accident happens to him). His Interpreter Monsieur Rocque is a thorough honest man, & both have conceived the necessity for a profound secrecy, as well as the design and manner of executing it. In order to avoid the bruited reports of couriers, & the curiosity & suspicion they always excite in traversing such an extent of country, 157 everything was settled with Wabasha here, & his wants were supplied principally by the timely arrival of the King's Cannoes. Sixty Winipigoes & a party of Indians from the West side of Lake Michigan are sent to cross the roads leading from the Rebel Posts—on the Ohio and Wabash—to the Illinois, to cover Capt n Bird of the 8 th who may be encumbered with Artillery, & to intercept Convoys of Provisions or Partys of the Rebels occasionally in motion from either Quarter.

Library of Congress

From this to the close of Harvest, small parties will be sent from here in that direction. I have hired for a year three men who undertake to carry Expresses from Niagara to this Post, in ten or twelve days, which Your Excellency may think a preferable Route to that of Detroit, for such matters as may require secrecy or dispatch. I have the honor to be Sir your Excellency's most obed t & most humble Servant.

Patrick Sinclair , 84 th Reg' t .

Michilimackinac 8 th July 1780.

P. S. No accident happened to any of the Indians or others in retiring. Monsieur Ducharmé permitted two profligate Frenchmen who were in his charge as Prisoners, to go to the Illinois. Numbers of that stamp are brought in from the Indians with their consent & approbation & the whole are ordered in Mr. Ainsés, call Interpreter here, is sent to bring in the Crew from St Josephs, Monsieur Chevallier is his uncle, & will come in, I believe through favor & compulsion, if he is not encouraged to stay here.

SINCLAIR TO HALDIMAND.

Sir ,—

* * * * *

Numbers of the People who used to winter at the Illinois & Mississippi will be allowed to go down late in the year, if they should not, be required by the Traders for Lake Superior or near wintering Grounds—

I am obliged to prevent anything going to the South side of Lake Superior for some months hence to avoid the Intrigues 158 of the Traders, who concert t with disaffected Indians the means of supplying them. As an Instance of their Turpitude, Monsieur Calvé & Le Croix with some others, after sending some of their Prisoners to the Enemy Equip't one,

Library of Congress

Provençal, with what goods remained in the wintering ground & sent him to the Illinois which they made a sham attack upon.

They also knew Provençal to be a person who opposed Major De Peyster's orders & who had refused to come in to the Post, & otherwise a man of an Infamous Character.

I therefore think it my Duty to prefer checking evils of that nature, to the silence of People who will now very probably become very clamorous.

I am, Sir, with Esteem Your most obed t humble Serv t Patk Sinclair L Gov r .

Michilimackinac 2 d Aug 1780.

SINCLAIR TO HALDIMAND.

Sir ,—As it has been unfortunately left to my lott to cheek several abuses, to purge the Indian Country of many bad People, who shelter themselves in it, from Authority, Justice & their Creditors—Each will be naturally armed with a dagger against the Person who has undertaken the Task which I could not refuse, Even, in the fullest consideration of the Times, and the consequences which may tho' thankless [and] dangerous, result from so necessary Measures.

To pass over the Whim & Caprice of several engaged in the Service, Experience has taught me as excusable often, but, when from a Disposition altogether unfriendly to the source of Authority in the Province & to that exercised in conformity of [with] it (of which I am sorry to say there is too much apparent at Detroit) I then think it is my Duty to take determinate Steps as must root out so great an evil, if pursued everywhere.

Please to observe the insolence of a man, who is indebted to His Excellency for his daily Bread, borrowing the language of the discontented at Detroit & at this Place—You will see that he is not mistaken, If I am presise in obedience of orders, & will Justify these People's

Library of Congress

opinions in calling 159 this Fort, Fort Haldimand. They all do me honor which I shall be happy if my conduct may claim.

This far I write officially thro' the medium of Friendship.

Were it necessary to offer any other justification for confining Mr. Harrow¹ to the Fort, only, than the account which he sends him self of the matter to Mr. Grant.² I would observe to you that I have parties of Sawyers, parties of Axe-men, cutting Picketts, Parties cutting Hay, the Corvées as they arrive to transport Provision in small quantities to send at a time for each of these Parties, their safety to watch over, as well as their humours, and besides the danger of some one lurking Villian destroying what we have done on the Island. Rebel Belts & strings are brought in every week by the Indians who still cannot prevent some bad ones from doing mischief. However at the time when Mr. Harrow displayed his insolence, I had the Sacks and Renards Indians here, who I then told were not to receive goods this year in their Country as they had allowed themselves to be debauched by the Rebels & that they could not murmur as they could not deny it, They being the only Western Indians in their interest. I also told them how short sighted they were not to observe that as they had mines in their Country, it was the Interest of the Rebels to pay them more attention than to the others—tho not more friendship for they meant them less. To return to Mr. Harrow—He is told to remain here untill General Haldimand's Pleasure is known, & his report in the Enclosed letter with the ordinary additional circumstances which agravate, & not necessary to trouble you with, is near the truth.

¹ Lieut. Alexander Harrow, commanding H. M. sloop "Welcome," was placed under arrest in the fort at Michilimackinac, by Sinclair's orders, for alleged insolence and disobedience. The correspondence relating to this affair is in *Mich. Pion. Coll.*, ix., pp. 598–607. Sinclair was tenacious of his official prerogative, and seems to have continually had one or more personal quarrels on his hands, while at Michilimackinac.— Ed.

Library of Congress

2 Capt. Alexander Grant, of the first battalion, 42nd (or Royal Highland) foot. For Harrow's letter to Sinclair, dated July 31, 1780, see *Id.*, p. 601.— Ed.

I am, Sir, Your most obed t humble Serv t Patk Sinclair , L t Gov r .

Michilimackinac 3 rd Aug t 1780.

160

HALDIMAND TO SINCLAIR.

Quebec 10th Aug t 1780.

Sir ,—In my letter of the 18 th Ultimo, I acknowledged the receipt of your Dispatch dated the 29 th of May, my wishes upon the material parts of its contents having been communicated to you by my letters of the 17 th of April & 16 th of July, there remains but a few articles to be answered.

In regard to the Prisoners you already have, & those which may hereafter be brought in, those who are Spanish Soldiers must be sent down to save your Provisions but from the barbarous treatment of our Prisoners by the Rebels in many Instances particularly in that of Lieut Gov r Hamilton & the Troops taken with him (who are still confined in Dungeons) upon scanty & unwholesome Provisions, and their obliging many (even in the character of Gentlemen) to work for their maintenance, I have given orders to the Commanding officers of the Several Posts to employ the Rebel Prisoners in whatever work they may be most useful, if necessary under a guard, allowing them a full ration & pay equal to the Soldiers, who are employed as Labourers—which is to be applied to Cloathe them.

The air and exercise will preserve their health, & there cannot be a doubt of their being treated with Humanity.

Library of Congress

You will please to observe the same at Michilimackinac, for which your situation of the Island is favourable, but if your Prisoners should multiply so as to be inconvenient those who are most troublesome send down to Montreal.

I approve entirely of your sending Captains of Militia to St. Josephs, La Bay & St. Mary's, upon the terms you propose, convinced you will make choice of such as will observe your Instructions.

I herewith send you one Hundred Printed Bills, persuaded that I shall see no more of them return here, than the necessities of the Service absolutely require.

In one of your letters of the 29 th of May You say I can hardly suppose that passes will be granted for Lake Superior or Lake Huron independent of this Post, after the irregularities 161 of this & of last winter. You have in General Terms Complained of the conduct of the Traders to those Lakes & indeed I have not the best opinion of them, but none of your letters having mentioned the particulars wherein they have offended, nor the Persons all which it would be necessary for me to be acquainted with before I can with propriety reject their applications for Passes, in which I purpose at all times to be directed by the Reports you make me.

* * * * *

I am, sir, (Signed) F. H.

HALDIMAND TO SINCLAIR.

Quebec 10 th August 1780.

Sir ,—I have received your letter of the 8 th ultimo covering Brown's Information & Reporting the return of the Vessels sent into Lake Michigan & the service rendered by them to the Party retiring from the Illinois, & likewise the attacks made upon Pencour &

Library of Congress

Cachokias & the cause of their being unsuccessful. It is very mortifying that the protection Mons r Calvé & others have received should meet so perfidious & so ungrateful a return. The circumstances of his & Monsieur Du Charmes Conduct, you are best acquainted with & to you I leave to dispose of them as they deserve. If you have evident proof of their counteracting or retarding the operations committed to their Direction, or in which they were to assist—I would have them sent prisoners to Montreal, in all events they are improper Persons to remain amongst the Indians, and I imagine you will think it necessary to remove them. Their Influence with the Natives, unless imployed for the King's Interests, must be dispensed with, and there is no doubt that the Indians will soon be reconciled to who ever may be appointed to supply their wants.

I am glad to find that altho' our attempts proved unsuccessful they were attended with no inconsiderable loss to the enemy. 11

162

You will find the captive Artificers very useful at present, my letter of this Date will authorize you to Employ them.

After the removal of the two interested or disaffected Traders, I hope you will find the management of the Indians less troublesome & more satisfactory. I hope no accident will happen to Wabasha, His and the conduct of his nation merit Distinction.

Your intention of discriminating I am persuaded will have a good effect, & I hope the operations of the ensuing campaign will discover it.

I approve much of your having engaged the three men as couriers between your Post & Niagara—it will open an expeditious communication Between those Posts & this part of Canada when the men are not out you can employ them otherwise.

I am, Sir, &c &c. (Signed) Fred: Haldimand .

Lieut. Govr. Sinclair .

CAPT. MOMPESON¹ TO DE PEYSTER.

1 Capt. John Mompesson, of the 8th foot. Mompesson was commander of the troops at Michilimackinac. Between him and Sinclair there arose a quarrel, the result of a conflict of authority. At the time this letter was written, Sinclair was seriously ill and Mompesson had temporarily assumed entire control of the affairs of the post. For correspondence relative to this dispute, see *Mich. Pion. Coll.*, ix., pp. 575, 589–592, 610–614, 632, 633. It was finally decided that Sinclair outranked Mompesson.— Ed.

In my last to you, I acquainted you how much Provisions remained in store here, since that I hope we will be able to get a quantity of Indian corn, a great part of which is arrived, and the Traders are going to Arbicrook² to trade for more, besides what I hope will be procured at Saguina by Traders.

2 L'Arbre Croche.— Ed.

The Milwaky Indians have not brought in any, neither can a trader be allowed to go amongst them, as they are at present not behaving in a proper manner.

The Sacks & Renards have taken up the Hatchet against us.

Indorsed: "Extract of a letter from Capt. Mompesson dated at Michilimackinac Sept. 20 th 1780."

163

SINCLAIR TO GENERAL POWELL.¹

Library of Congress

1 Henry Watson Powell, serving as lieutenant colonel of the 53rd foot. At the time of this correspondence he was general by brevet, his rank in the army being colonel. He was commissioned major general, May 20, 1782.— Ed.

Michilimakinac 5 th June 1781.

Sir ,--

* * * * *

The Indians to the Westward gave such protection to their Traders, as deterred the Illinois Pillagers from an enterprise similar to that undertaken against St. Joseph's.² They desire to know from me why they are withheld from checking the maroders [marauders] from that Quarter, as they have withheld no proof of their good disposition towards the English, having on His Majesty's Birthday delivered up their French medals.

2 Referring to the capture of St. Joseph by the Americans and Spaniards, in January, 1781. Cf. Sparks's *Dipl. Corres.*, viii., pp. 76–78; *Mag. Amer. Hist.*, xv., pp. 457–469, and Winsor's *America*, vi., p. 743.— Ed.

I have the honor to be &c &c.

To Genl Powell .

Michilimakinac 16 th June 1781.

Sir ,—the Sacks and Rhenards from the Banks of the Mississippi, with the Menominé Indians, are arrived and more expected daily from their Tribes bordering on the Illinois Country, who have sent to inform me, they do not mean any longer to listen to the tales imposed upon them by the enemy.

* * * * *

Library of Congress

I have the honor to be Sir &c Pat k Sinclair , L t Gov r .

To General Powell.

Indorsed: "Extracts of Letters from L t Gov r Sinclair to Brigadier General Powell."

164

LANGLADE TO CAPTAIN ROBERTSON.¹

¹ Daniel Robertson, of the 84th foot, captain commanding Michilimackinac and dependencies, 1782 to May 10, 1787. He succeeded Sinclair in the charge of the post. Robertson is said to have been killed by falling down a precipice 128 feet deep, at the southeastern corner of the island,—now called "Robertson's Folly." See Kelton's *Annals of Fort Mackinac* (ed. 1887), pp. 67–70.— Ed.

[Translated from the French by Grace Clark.]

La Bey march 5 1783.

Governor ,—these presents are to assure you of my most humble respect, and to inform you that according to what some Puants report when the Traders crossed the portage of the ouisconsin, Their nation wanted to Plunder them that in the confusion there was a Puant called Boeuf blanc killed and that to be revenged They took from Sieur Reilh² the Worth of five or six pieces of money in Drink and in other things, and as they were still drunk when Monsieur Blondeau passed he was obliged to give them also a great deal of Spoil in order to save his life, There were forty Sauteux men women and children that ate one another so long had they Fasted in the Bey des nôques;³ Caron Chief of the folles-avoines died the third of November,⁴ and a man named Marcotte a Trader was killed, we don't know whether by the Sauteux or the Sioux, but his three men were saved, although two were wounded.

Library of Congress

2 Antoine Reilhe, of Two Rivers, one of the proprietors of the general store at Michilimackinac.— Ed.

3 Bay de Noque, Delta county, Mich.— Ed.

4 Cf. *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, i., p. 58; iii., p. 266.— Ed.

I hope to have soon the honor to go and offer you my most humble Respect, and if you have Need of my service command me whenever you please, you will find me always ready to receive your orders, For I am always with the greatest Respect, Governor, the faithful Servant of the King

Langlade , Captain of the Indian department.

Addressed: "To Captain Robinçon, Governor of Machilimakinac, at Machilimakinac."

Indorsed: "1783 Letter from Captain Langlade to Capt. Robertson La Baye 5 th March."

165

ROBERTSON TO CAPTAIN MATHEWS.1

1 Capt. Robert Mathews, of the 8th foot, secretary to Haldimand.— Ed.

Michilimakinac 20th April 1783.

Sir ,—

* * * * *

Mr. McBeath² sets out this week for La Prairie de Chiens with Mr. Langlade Jun r 3 in order to dissuade the Western Indians, who assemble there from coming this length.

2 George McBeath, a trader.— Ed.

Library of Congress

3 Charles de Langlade, Jr. See *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, vii., p. 182.— Ed.

I have the honor to be with regard, Sir,

Your most obed t & most hum I Serv t

Dan I Robertson , Capt n 84 th Reg t .

Capt. Mathews .

Indorsed: "From Capt n Robertson commanding at Michilimakinac, of the 20 th April."

ROBERTSON TO M'BEATH.

Michilimakinac 26 th April 1783.

Sir ,—You are to proceed from hence to La Prairie de Chiens, the Rendezvous of the Western Indians, or to where you may meet them, and on your way thither you are to induce every nation or Band of Indians, to the Interests of His Majesty's Peace and Harmony among themselves, & in a particular manner recommend Hunting to them, and to keep at their Homes till called for.

You are to smoke the Pipe of Peace with them, in the name of all their Fathers to the above purport, and give them as from me a proportion of what presents you have for that purpose.

You are to inform them that the Great Men are now busy in making Peace with each other, and that they as good Subjects ought to follow the Example among themselves, untill told the contrary by their Fathers.

The above, and everything [of] use for the Publick good, 166 with your own knowledge, and experience of Indians, you will communicate to them in the strongest terms.

Library of Congress

Mr. Langlade Jun r is to accompany you as Interpreter & I shall write to the other Interpreters in the Indian Countries to give you every assistance to accomplish the above to effect & enable me to fulfill His Excell y the Commander in Chief's most ardent wishes to diminish the expenses of this Post.

I wish you success & a safe return home.

I am, Sir, Your most obed t & Hum l Servant (Signed) Dan l Robertson Cap tn 84 th Reg t .

To Mr. Geo. McBeath .

ROBERTSON TO MATHEWS.

Michilimakinac 27 th April 1783.

Sir ,—Having an opportunity to [send to] Detroit, I enclose you a copy of my instructions to Mr. McBeath for His Excellency the Commander in Chief's consideration, he sets out in a day or two as the weather is very favorable. I have the honor to be with Regard Sir, Your most obed t & humb l Serv t

Dan l Robertson Capt n 84 th Reg t .

Capt. Mathews .

REPORT OF A COUNCIL AT PRAIRIE DU CHIEN.

[Translated from the French by Grace Clark.]

La Prairie du Chien May 24 th 1783.

Library of Congress

The Renards, Sacques, Scieux, Puants and Folles avoines held a council in this village in consequence of the Word which was sent them by their Father at Michilimakinac through M. George Mcbeath.

Speech of the Renards. Vimotolaque the great chief speaks:—My Father the english, I pray you to hear from me, all that I am going to tell you, I wish you good day, it is very true that you give us life to-day, you do us Kindness to drive away all dark clouds.

167

My Father, I listen to you always, we are Renards and Saques who are only one body, there are some that call themselves our kinsmen but they are not.

My Father, I have disobeyed the Word that you gave me, but those that call themselves our Kinsmen are the cause.

My Father, You are kind to us, but I am going to tell you what has happened to me. My Father on the other side of the great Lake is kind to me, yes my Father it is true it is not new the kindness that you do us. You have always done it though we deserve it not. My Father, there are some of your children to whom you have been kind who have promised you much on receiving Your kindness, who have told you that they will always love Your Word near you as well as far from you, still these children have shown that they have not always loved Your Word, they have done evil acts, and the leader of this act who is called Wabaishaiw¹ is the cause that we have been killed by the Soteux, that we have neglected your Word and that our Father loves us—not like his other children who have mixed the Ground.²

1 Wabasha.— Ed.

2 “ *Brouillé les Terres.*”— Tr.

Library of Congress

I thank you my Father for coming upon our Land and for having sent us a Trader, but truly our Head is bewildered.

For the tree that you have spoken of to me, I know of it; our Interpreter was shielded from being defeated, with all our little children.

My kinsmen the Puants, we pray you to take away that tree so that the hunters may pass quietly. My kinsmen the Puants, I ask charity; leave the road open. We are deserving of pity, I think our friends the Scieux are of the same feeling.

My Father, we are joyful to see you on our lands, we deserve not this goodness, we give our Land to our Father.

Anatchie, chief of the Sacques, speaks:—My Kinsmen the Renards, Sacques, Puants, Scieux, and Folles avoines it is 168 true what my father has just said, I rejoice greatly; it is true my kinsmen, I have no wit, but you others that have will say as I do. My Father I have come to see you to hear the word of our Father. I see you, I rejoice at it; my kinsmen the Scieux, and you others my kinsmen I am all alone; I listen to the Word of my Father.

My Kinsmen, I have come here almost by chance, still by the counsel of our chiefs, to hear the word of our interpreter. You see not our chiefs here because the way of the Lake is not open. They are sitting on the mat waiting the answer. My Father it is true you are kind to us, to my uncles the Renards, Saques, Scieux, Puants and Folles avoines for sending us a Trader; although I am not transported at your Demand, I am always ready for the good. We are all happy to see you to show you our good heart. I ask charity of you; it is true our children are bewildered, I say nothing that I think not, I hope you will set free this piece of Flesh that deserves to be chopped up.

Library of Congress

My Kinsmen the Scieux and Folles avoines, I ask of you charity that you take away the tree that is in the road. I pray you my Kinsmen the Puants, the Renards, and you the warriors to aid in this. I love you dearly, and pray that this may not happen another time.

My Kinsmen the Scieux and you others of this council, I pray you to hear me and to take away this tree. I have a father down below,¹ but I draw nothing from him; this is why I pray my Brothers to take away this tree.

1 The Americans.— Ed.

My Father you are seated there, I ask charity for the Puants; I weep, I hope that you will make me speak true, you have given one another blow for blow, I hope you will arrange this affair; and my Kinsmen the Puants, I regard you as my Brothers, I pray you to aid in this.

My Father, my Kinsmen the Puants and you others of the council there was litter in the road, there is still; I pray you to clean it away.

My Father, one told me to carry fear to Suiseban and I have done so; we remain always in our home at your Demand until we have the Word of our Father.

169

—Here he placed a belt on the Ground.

My Father, I am going to tell you what happened in our Lands fifteen moons ago; it is all one to me whether the chiefs of the nations here like it or not; I am going to speak all the same; a White who is called Bouchet and who thinks himself chief wanted to make our Traders, who come from among us, deserving of pity; it is I, my father, that hindered it although I was all alone on my side and for reward my Father has taken away my medals. I pray then that my Father restore my three medals to the hands of the Interpreter of the Renards and also my two commissions.

Library of Congress

Wabashau, great chief of Scieux, speaks:—My Father, I listen to what I have heard my Kinsmen the Renards and Sacques say. I have no other word than theirs; it gives pleasure to all the Chiefs of Council to see The English Chief on our Lands. They will do like their Kinsman. We are content with what our Kinsmen the Renards and the other nations have said for the road. I pray the two Puants here to speak to their nation to clean the road, so that our Traders be not deserving of pity.

My Father, I am content that the great chiefs on the other side of the greatest Lake are for making peace. We shall do as they, at your demand; as a proof of this, my Kinsman the Sacque has given you a belt.

My Father, we have resolved among us to send you bad men who have killed the Whites, so that you might do with them as you will.

My English Father, you give us pleasure to have come upon our Ground, our heart is joyful and content, it is you that give us life, we will be quiet. I give you my hand.

Anatchie speaks a second time:—My Father, I speak from my heart, the Traders know what I have done for them fifteen Moons ago. I have not thought to tell you my Father, that I,—l'epais and le Mitasse, two of our great chiefs, aided me in this however; my brother l'Epais and I returned from the great Village quite ashamed, we were not regarded by our Father as good children, although we have been more 170 ready and our heart better than others of his children who left the great Village quite happy. My Father, we ask for the Interpreter of the Renards and his brother Nisonaquasit to stay with us.

The chief of the Renards answered at this last request:—My Father, our Interpreter who is always with us stays with us and no other. I hope my father will not take him away.

Kariminu¹ chief of the Puants, speaks:—My Father, and Kinsmen the Renards, Sacques, Scieux, and Folles avoines, you tell the truth, we are a foolish nation and it is I who am

Library of Congress

deserving of pity. The tree I hope is not much in the road, the bad men who put the tree there have given themselves up to us. I send them to my Father.

1 Karrymaunee.— Ed.

La Jeunesse, Folles avoine, speaks:—My Father, my Kinsmen the Renards, Sacques &c, speak well. I have no other Word than theirs. I am charmed to see my English Father.

Indorsed: "Council held between the Renards, Sacques, Scieux, Puants and Folles avoines at Prairie du Chien the 24 th May 1783."

CADOTT2 TO GAUTIER.

2 Jean Baptiste Cadott, of Sault Ste. Marie, who traded to La Pointe, in Chequamegon bay, and other stations on the south shore of Lake Superior. See Sinclair's letter to Brehm, *ante*. p. 145; also various citations in *Wis. Hist. Coll.* and vol. ix. of *Mich. Pion. Coll.*— Ed.

[Translated from the French by Grace Clark]

Sault St. Marie June 16, 1783.

Monsieur and Friend ,—As I am on the point of setting out I write you only a few words to acquaint you with the news from Lake Superior.

All the Indians from fond du Lac, rainy Lake, Sandy lake, and surrounding places are dead from smallpox.

I am Monsieur your servant and friend Cadott .

Addressed: "To Monsieur Gautier, King's interpreter, at Mackynac."

Indorsed: "Letter from Cadet to M. Gautier dated Sault St. Marie 16 th June, 83."

171

Library of Congress

ROBERTSON TO MATHEWS.

Michilimackinac 27 th June 1783.

Sir,—It was with much concern that I heard from Montreal, through Mr. Ellice,¹ that my Bill, on His Excellency the Commander in Chief were not paid, if really so it cannot be helped, I have acted in the Principalls of Honor for the good of the Service, and the accounts may undergo any scrutiny.

¹ Ellice & Coy were forwarding agents and brokers, at Montreal.— Ed.

The sending Mr. McBeath to La Prairie de Chien is the only act I did of my self and even that I had partly, in my Instructions from Col. Hope,² this has been the means of keeping about twelve hundred Indians from this Post, less than last year, not a small saving to Government in Provisions, &c.

² Henry Hope, lieut. colonel of the 44th foot.— Ed.

I received four Canoes of Indian Presents from Montreal, very apropos and if it is meant to keep possession of any part in the Upper Country—Four or Six more would be necessary this Fall.

I have the honor to be with esteem, Sir, Your most obed t & most hum l serv t

Dan l Robertson Capt n 84 th Reg t .

Capt. Mathews .

M'BEATH TO ROBERTSON.

Michilimakinac 14 th July 1783.

Library of Congress

Captain Robertson .

Sir ,—The situation of my affairs at present obliges me to lay my case before you, hoping you will be so good as to represent it to His Excellency the Commander in Chief, who was pleased to authorize me in May 1782 to furnish what things might be wanting for the use of the Post & for carrying on the King's works here, which I have done to the utmost of my power, complying according to His Excellency's 172 Directions, with every order given me by the Commanding Officers, and hope I may without Presumption appeal to your Justice for approbation of my conduct since your Taking the Command. After having advanced money for the payment of Artificers and Labourers employed in the King's Works, paid Cash for Rum and many other Articles that cannot be Purchased on Credite but Rum, Dry Goods and in short everything that was wanting for Government that I could gett, and even put myself under the Disagreeable Circumstance of borrowing from others what was immediately necessary for His Majesty's Service endeavoring by every means in my power to Reduce Expenses at the Risque of my Total Ruin, it was but by the last King's Canoes that I received the last of the Goods, but the preceding Summer in L t Gov r Sinclair's Time, the Rum still remains due, after all These efforts to Forward as much as in me lay the service of the Post and Execute the Directions given me by His Excellency, how Peculiarly Distressing must it be not to have received to this moment one Shilling that I have any knowledge of on account of Government. Even last year I laid before Colonel Hope & Sir John Johnson the difficulties I laboured under, who promised to lay it before the General, but alas, I am still a sufferer, and instead of any relief, an augmentation of my distresses, the Bills I drew for the payment of Cash advanced Government for the Engineer Department came back protested with 10 per cent damages and six per cent interest, a loss that I am little [able] to bear, and which must inevitably ruin me unless His Excellency will take my unmerited Sufferings into consideration & order me the payment of what I am obliged to pay on account of non payment of the Bills, my case is quite different From those that Furnished quantitys of Goods for the Indian Department, as mine was entirely advanced for the Purpose of carrying on the King's works, I cannot blame myself

Library of Congress

with anything but being over persuaded to allow the Transactions before my Time to be mixed with those after. I would only begg you would please lay before His Excellency my Misfortains who alon is able to mitigate them, and will I am persuaded listen with a 173 Favorable Eare to any thing coming from one whom he has so much reason to esteem.

I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obed t & most humble Servant

Geo. McBeath .

Capt. Daniel Robertson 84th Regt Commandant of Michilimakinac .

ROBERTSON TO MATHEWS.

Michilmakinac 14 th July 1783.

Sir ,—The annexed letter you will be pleased to lay before His Excellency the Commander in Chief, it is in consequence of Lieut. Gov r Sinclair's & my bills not being honored that Mr. McBeath now suffers as set forth in his Letter, he was Paymaster of the Workmen, he of course gave many small Bills on Mr. Ellice to different workmen, and all of them protested, as even my Bills were not paid by His Excellency, which Mr. Ellice acquainted Mr. McBeath of.

I have the honor to be with esteem Sir Your most obed t Hum I Serv t Dan I Robertson .

Captain Mathews .

ROBERTSON TO MATHEWS.

Michilimakinac 9 th August 1783.

Sir ,—By Letters from Mr. Ellice and Mr. McBeath, I am informed that my Bills on His Excellency the Commander in Chief are honored, therefore I have drawn on His

Library of Congress

Excellency for expenditures at this Post from 1 st April to the 1 st July last, in favor of Mr. McBeath in the usual manner.

For the Engineer Department Four Thousand, three hundred, three Pounds, fifteen Shillings and a penny half penny.

For the Indian Department Two Thousand, four hundred, seven Pounds and thirteen Shillings, both New York Currency.

I hope His Excellency will be pleased to Honor those Bills as soon as convenient, on account of Mr. McBeath, who was 174 dupped [duped] in [into] drawing Lieut. Governor Sinclair's last Bills and [is] of course a great sufferer.

My sending Mr. McBeath to La Prairie du Chien may appear extravagant but it is almost certain that it prevented, at least a Thousand Indians coming here & those fled here & on their way home. I reckon two Bushels Corn with some Grease, a little Bread & Pork, on an average to each with Rum and other Presents would far exceed the present expense. Mr. McBeath left this the end of April long before I had received any goods, and I had nothing in store but a few pieces of Blue Strouds & some white Shirts. Colonel Hope was of the same opinion as myself as to sending out to prevent Indians coming in, which insured me to adopt it.

I have the honor to be with great regard Sir, Your most obed t & hum I Servant

Dan I Robertson .

Captain Mathews .

CARLETON TO DE PEYSTER.1

Library of Congress

1 This and the succeeding letters and documents were received from Ottawa in April, 1888,—too late for chronological arrangement with the preceding papers, which had gone to press.— Ed.

Montreal , June 25 th , 1776.

Sir ,—I received yesterday your letter of the 13 th inst. The rebels are driven out of this province, and I am preparing to return their visit. You may stop² the Indians from coming down here, at least for the present; provided you can do it without giving them offence.³

2 This letter is also published in De Peyster's *Miscellanies*, p. 233, with the following footnote by the recipient: "This was done through great exertion, although at the risk of the Captain's [De Peyster's] life."— Ed.

3 Among these were Indians from what is now Wisconsin, desirous of going down to Montreal to have a war talk with Carleton and beg for presents. See *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, vii., p. 405.— Ed.

Your obedient servant, Guy Carleton .

Capt. De Peyster .

175

CARLETON TO HAMILTON.

Quebec 21 st May 1777.

Sir ,—You¹ have herewith inclosed the copy of a letter from Lord George Germain, which is sen t you at full length, for your instruction and guidance; I have only to add that L Colonel S Leger has similar orders for the Savages of the five Nations, &c.

1 Lieut. Governor Hamilton.— Ed.

Library of Congress

You will therefore be careful not to attempt to draw off any destined for his command.

Let me know what Provisions you may want, in the meantime some shall be sent you at a venture.

I am &c, Guy Carleton .

LORD GERMAIN TO CARLETON.

[Document enclosed in the foregoing.]

Copy of a letter from Lord George Germain, dated Whitehall 26 th March 1777.

Sir ,—In the consideration of the measures proper to be pursued in the next Campaign, the making a division on the Frontiers of [Virginia and Pennsylvania by Parties of Indians conducted by proper Leaders as proposed by Lieut. Gov r Hamilton has been maturely weighed.

That Officer in his letter to the Earl of Dartmouth, dated at Detroit the 2 nd of September last, [wrote] that he had then with him deputies from the Ottawas, Chippewas, Wyandotts, Shawnese, Senecas, Delawares, Cherokees and Pouattouattamies. That their inclination was for war and that it was with much difficulty he had restrained them from Hostilities, which he thought it his duty to do, finding by a letter from you dated the 19 th of July, that you had sent back some Ottawas Who had offered their services desiring them to hold themselves in readiness next spring.

There can be little doubt that the Indians are still in the same disposition and that they will readily and eagerly engage in any enterprise in which it may be thought fit to employ them under the direction of the Kings Officers, and as 176 it is His Majestys resolution that the most Vigorous efforts should be made, and every means employed that Providence has put into His Majestys Hands, for crushing the Rebellion and restoring the Constitution it

Library of Congress

is The Kings command that you should direct Lieut. Governor Hamilton to assemble as many of the Indians of his district as he conveniently can, and placing proper Persons at their Head, to whom he is to make suitable allowances, to conduct their Parties, and restrain them from committing violence on the well affected and inoffensive Inhabitants, employ them in making a Diversion and exciting an alarm upon the frontiers of Virginia and Pennsylvania. And as there is good ground to believe there are considerable numbers of loyal subjects in those Parts who would gladly embrace an opportunity of delivering themselves from the Tyranny and oppressions of the Rebel Committees, it is His Majestys pleasure that you do authorize and direct Lieut. Gov r Hamilton to invite all such loyal subjects to join him and to assure them of the same pay and allowances as are given to His Majesty's corps raised in America and that such of them as shall continue to serve His Majesty untill the Rebellion is suppressed and peace restored shall each receive His Majestys bounty of 200 Acres of Land.

These offers it is to be hoped will induce many persons to engage in the King's service; which may enable Lieut. Gov r Hamilton to extend his operations so as to divide the attention of the Rebels, and oblige them to collect a considerable Force to oppose him, which cannot fail of weakening their Main Army and facilitating the operations directed to be carried on against them in other Quarters, and thus bring the War to a more speedy Issue and restore those deluded People to their former State of Happiness and prosperity, which are the favorite wishes of the Royal Breast and the great object of all His Majestys Measures.

A supply of Presents for the Indians and other necessaries will be wanted for this service, and you will of course send Lieut. Gov r Hamilton what is proper and sufficient.

Inclosed is a list of the Names of several persons, residing on the Frontiers of Virginia recommended by Lord 177 Dunmore for their Loyalty and attachment to Government, and who his Lordship thinks will be able to give great assistance to Lieut. Gov r Hamilton through their extensive Influence among the Inhabitants.

Library of Congress

G. C.

CARLETON TO DE PEYSTER.

Quebec , 14 th July, 1777.

Sir ,—I have received your letters, by Mr. Langlade and others, on the subject of the Indians sent down from your neighbourhood.

Being sensible, from the prudence and discretion with which you have conducted yourself in the command of your post, that your leaving it just in the present conjuncture would be attended with considerable inconvenience to the King's service, it is my intention that you continue at Michilimakinac, notwithstanding your appointment to the Majority of your regiment, till further orders; of which Lieutenant-Colonel Bolton is made acquainted.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant, Guy Carleton .

Major De Peyster, Michilimakinac .

CLARK'S COMMISSION TO A FOX CHIEF.

By George Rogers Clark Esq re Collonel in the Virginia Troops & Commandant of the Eastern Illinois and its dependancies, &c. &c.

Whereas Kinaytounak Chief of the Renard Nation of the Indians has entered into alliance & friendship with the United States of America & promised to be a true and faithful subject thereto.

In consideration of which I do give him this as a Rememberance that he and his Nation are to treat all the subjects of the said States with Friendship & receive them at all 12 178 times as their Brothers. Given under my hand & seal at Fort Bowman in Kahos this 28 th day of August 1778.

Library of Congress

G. R. Clark .

(Seal.)¹

¹ The seal bears a lion rampant with star and crescent; the field marked for gules.—
Copyist.

Indorsed: "Commission donnée par les Rebelles au Chef des Renards envoyé par Gautier au Major de Peyster. Reçu avec sa lettre du 13 Mayle 30—1779."²

² See *ante*, p. 127,— Ed.

HAMILTON TO HALDIMAND.

Camp at Petite Riviere Nov r 1 st '78.

Sir ,—I have the honor to acquaint your Excellency that I have sent off from this place 22 Voitures³ with Provisions, Stores, &c. under the command of Lieut t . Du Vernet⁴ a very active & intelligent officer, who has my orders to encamp at the Forks of the Ouabash till my arrival or further orders.

³ Wagons.— Ed.

⁴ Henry du Vernet, 2d lieutenant of artillery, in charge of stores and transportation upon Hamilton's expedition from Detroit to Vincennes. See his reports, *Mich. Pion. Coll.*, ix., p. 409.— Ed.

I this day purpose setting off with 7 Boats loaded, & take along with me the Ottawas & Chippaweys in all 72. Four, the first chiefs of the Miamis Nation have joined me with 30 Warriors.

Library of Congress

Mr. Chevalier came to the Miamis town with a chief & 14 of the Pouteouattamies of St. Joseph,⁵ this & his future behaviour may efface his former misbehaviour.

⁵ Relative to the location of St. Joseph's, see *ante*, p. 115, *note* 2. De Peyster, in his *Miscellanies*, p. 24, *note* 3, says it was "At the head of the river of that name, where the Pottawattamies have a fort and large settlement." He also says, in a letter to Haldimand of Aug. 15, 1778, speaking of Louis Chevalier, the principal trader at St. Joseph, (*Mich. Pion. Coll.*, ix., p. 868), "He [Chevalier] holds the pass to Detroit and can also give the first intelligence of the enemy's motion on the Wabash," clearly describing the portage, or pass, between the St. Josephs and the Kankakee rivers. Consult Thomas Hutchins's *Map of the Western Part of Virginia*, etc. (1778). Fort Miami, built by La Salle in 1679, was, according to Hennepin, "just at the mouth of the river Miami,"—afterward, about 1703, styled St. Josephs river. But this fort was destroyed by La Salle's men in 1680. Father Jean Mermet, then at the river mouth, writes La Mothe Cadillac, April 19, 1702, that he proposes to establish a mission "three journeys," or about sixty miles, up river, "near a stream which is the source of the Ouabache" [Illinois], where there is a portage of half a league (*Margry*, v., p. 219). In 1711, Father Chardon had his mission sixty miles above the month. By 1712, there appears to have been a French military post at this mission. Charlevoix, in a letter dated "River St. Joseph, Aug. 16, 1721," writes, describing his approach to the fort, from Lake Michigan: "You afterward sail up twenty leagues in it [up the St. Josephs river] before you reach the fort, which navigation requires great precaution." He speaks of the large settlement of Pottawattomies and Miamis on the river, hard by the fort. The evidence is ample, that the fort on the St. Josephs, from about 1712 to its final destruction during the Revolutionary war, guarded the portage between the river of that name and the Kankakee, on the east bank of the St. Josephs, in Indiana, a short distance below the present city of South Bend; while the Pottawattomies were located upon the opposite bank, on the portage trail. In 1879, the St. Josephs river was surveyed by a corps of United States engineers; the distance from the mouth of the river up to Niles, Mich., where most historians have located Fort St. Josephs, was found to be but 42 miles,

Library of Congress

as the stream winds, while to South Bend it is 56.39, which latter distance very closely fits the sixty miles specified by Mermet, Chardon and Charlevoix. Credit is due to C. W. Butterfield for having been the first historian, so far as I am aware, to have pointed out the fact that this Revolutionary fort was in the neighborhood of South Bend; this he did in an eight-line note in *Mag. West. Hist.*, iii., p. 447.— Ed.

179

Major Hay¹ follows to-morrow with the last of the batteaux, the Pouteouattamies and the Miamis. This carrying place is free from any obstructions, but what the carelessness & ignorance of the French have left, & would leave from Generation to Generation. An intelligent person at a small expense might make it as fine a road as any within 20 miles of London. The Woods are beautiful, Oak, Ash, Beech, Nutwood, very clear & of a great growth. Your Excellency will I hope excuse my mentioning, a trifling tho' curious particular, in a ridge near the road I found a sea fossil, to find Marine productions on this hauteur des torres is to my mind more curious than their being found in the Alps—there are no mountains in view from Detroit to this place so that these appearances cannot readily be accounted for from volcanoes of which there is no trace to be observed. All our people, of all colors are in perfect health, & their disposition such *hitherto* as leaves me no room for complaint.

¹ John Hay, commissioned major August 29, 1777, but serving as captain in the 28th foot. — Ed.

Lieut t Du Vernet having taken a sketch of the Miamis 180 River & purposing to continue his plan to the Illinois, I shall take the first opportunity of transmitting it to your Excellency, agreeable to L t Du Vernets request. At the same time take the liberty of commending his diligence, as to his capacity I dare not give my opinion knowing my own defficiency in those points, which no officer ought to be ignorant of.

Library of Congress

I have got his French Medal from Wanaquibé Chief of Pouteouattamies of St . Joseph, in presence of 200 Chiefs & Warriors at the Miamis Country.

Our numbers at present are nearly as follows—Detachment of the Kings 32 noncommission'd officers included—With the Artillery 2 Gunners, 4 of the Kings & 17 from the 2 Detroit Companies which are each at 44, officers included. La Mothe's Volunteers 42, Ottawas 40 Chippoweys 20, Wyandotts 4, Pouteouattamies 15, Pouteouattamies of St. Joseph 15. Miamis 30 (Women are not included in this return of the Savages). The Shawanese are expected this night with Capt McKee,¹ who writes me word that they attempted a Fort built by the Rebels at the Falls of the Ohio, but only succeeded in destroying a parcel of Tools. I shall endeavour to cut off the communication from that Fort to the Illinois & perhaps shall find the taking that Fort an object well worth attention—The Rebels are building a Fort in the Island at the Falls. I hear the Miamis of the Riviere a l'Auguille will join us. We have had pretty sharp frost, but fine clear weather—by damming up, the water of this petite riviere 4 miles below the landing, the water is backed & raised an inch here. At the dam it rose an inch the first

¹ Alexander McKee, a Pennsylvanian by birth, became an Indian trader in early life; and between 1768 and 1772 had his headquarters at Pittsburgh, conducting, in company with Alexander Ross, a large business in that line. In the latter year he became deputy Indian agent to Sir William Johnson. When the Revolutionary war broke out, suspected of entertaining a preference for the royalist cause, he was put upon his parole at Fort Pitt; but in the spring of 1778 fled from there in company with Simon Girty and others and joined the British at Detroit, where he was continued in the Indian department. He appears to have been particularly efficient among the Shawanese.—(Butterfield's *Washington-Irvine Correspondence*, p. 332.)— Ed.

181 hour. The Beavers had worked hard for us, but we were obliged to break down their dam to let the boats pass, that were sent forward to clear the river & a place called the Chemin Couvert.

Library of Congress

Mr de Celoron has a brother in the Rebel service, & I have no room to doubt his treasonable design in spreading reports that might delay us till next spring, when reinforcements from the colonies might effectually frustrate our attempts to regain the Illinois, or keep the Indians in our interest—double pay I take it has been his seducer, & as to his reward, I hope to have your Excellency's orders. I have ordered his suspension in the interim.

Your Excellency will I trust make allowance for the haste & incorrectness of this report.

I have the honor to be with all imaginable respect, Sir, Your most obedient & most Obed t humble Servant Henry Hamilton .

Indorsed: "Detroit N o 23, 1779. From Lieut. Gov r Hamilton dated at Camp little riviere the 1 st Nov r 1778. Rec d 19 th March 1779,"

HALDIMAND'S SPEECH TO THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANS.

Quebec 2 July 1779.

His Excellency General Haldimand's speech to the Indians resorting to Michilimakinac and in its Vicinity.

After going thro' the usual ceremony of condolence with three strings of Wampum to wipe their eyes to see, clear the throat to speak, & open their ears to hear: go on as follows—

Children the Ottawas, Chipways, Misis-ageys and other Indian Nations that may be assembled at Michilim c .

Being persuaded that there are among you as among other Nations Mis-chiefeous Birds that wisper into your ears all manner of bad News and Falshoods to disturb your well-being and Unanimity in order to bring you into Strife and trouble. I therefore by this string of Wampum earnestly advise you not to give Ear to such Birds but give due attention 182

Library of Congress

to what I am going to tell you it being meant for your welfare, and what you may depend upon as Fact & real Truth.

A string of Wampum.

Children,—I daresay you are acquainted that the King your father has at last been obliged to chastise and correct his undutiful & rebellious children the Bostonians for attempting to disown and rise against him who has always been a tender & affectionate Father rearing them from their Infancy with a great deal of care & expence, untill they grew strong and able to support themselves. No sooner did they arrive to that state of maturity and ease, but they most shamefully & ungratefully forgot the filial Duty & Affection, and even when they thought themselves formidable enough they rose against him in order to dispossess him of a Country he legally owned near Two hundred years, and become Possessors & Masters both of that & the Indian country, for which reason you must be sensible that they first began with the Indians upon the Ohio endeavoring to drive them off and settle that Country by Force of Arms and were they to obtain their end they would soon drive all the Indians from their Lands & become their Masters.

But their Efforts have hitherto proved ineffectual by means of the King your Fathers superior Force both by sea & Land and they losing ground and growing weaker every day and confused in their Councils, they were inconsiderate enough to send a party of their People once more into the Indian Country by way of the Illinois; and I am sorry to say the Indians were so blind to their Interest as to suffer them to penetrate as far as S Vincents & Tuscarrawas whereby they not only run the risque of loosing their Country but the supplies of every necessary of Life they want which they must get from this Country the Rebels being destitute of everything themselves as the King your Fathers ships Stop up all their ports that no Goods can get in; and as the Bostonians know that the River S t Lawrence is open whereby all the Indians in Nations in Canada are plentifully supplied with every Article in Trade they made an attempt 1783 to get possession in their Country in order to seize upon the Traders & their Goods which is the reason that I have stop'd my people who are

Library of Congress

trading among you from setting out as early as usual for fear of running the risque of their Lives & property & your being deprived of your necessaries. And let me tell you Children that if you dont endeavor to keep your Country clear of these people for the future, you must expect to be entirely without Trade as I wont expose my peoples lives and property if they can't go into your Country with safety. I think it is the least thing for se numerous a Body of People as you are to keep a handfull of Bostonians out of it. I for my part have not been Idle these 4 years passt to keep this River open that you may have your supplies and defend this Country from the Incursion of the Rebels who make frequent attempts to attack it in order to cut off the communication, with you w ch point if they should gain would deprive you of every kind of cloathing and ammunitiion; for the King your Fathers ships would immediately block up this River that not a single Ship of the Rebels or their Allies w th merchandize could get in. So that you must be convinced it is for your essential welfare and Interest to do your part & keep your Country clear of the Bostonians.

A large belt.

Children,—As to the Stories these evil Birds carry about & wisper into your Ears with regard to your former fathers the French coming among you again. I shall tell you the Truth of the Matter and you may depend upon it as a fact for I never told an Untruth yet in my Life.

The Bostonians seeing themselves not able enough to stand up against their Father the King, sent some of their most cunning Men to your former Father the King of France telling him many false stories how rich and able they were to fight ag st their Father the King of England, but that they had no large ships like his; If therefore the french King would only hire them some of his big Ships to fight for them they would pay him well & trade with him. 184 The french would not for a long while agree to their request till they beg'd and promised him so much that at last they prevailed upon him to send out 15 large Ships to help the Bostonians, w ch was last summer and accordingly they joined the Bostonians army at Rhode Island. As soon as the King of Englands Ships at N. York heard of it they

Library of Congress

went in search of them and when they came in sight of the french Ships they immediately left the Bostonians and went to sea and the English Ships pursuing them could not stop them to fight but had some Shot at them now and then; since that, the french Ships went to the West Indies where the English followed them and taking a french Island the french General wanted to take it from them again with his Fleet & Army but was beat off with the loss of 3000 men & run away to another Island where he is now shut up by the English Fleet & dare not come to fight them & y r father the King of England has now such a numerous fleet w ch w th in the m th has been so successfull in the East Ind as & every where that the french fleet wont show itself. Now the King of France is so angry with the Bostonians that they brought them into this Quarrel that he wont send them a Ship or a man more, and you wont see him so soon for w ch reason I have called some of y r people that winterd at Montreal to come to this place where I convinced them that there was no french ship here or in y r Mouth of this Riv r this Spring.

I can assure you Children that when ever I find that the french will get the better of this Country I shall act the same part w th your late father Vaudreuil as to acquaint you of it myself, till then I beg you will keep yourselves quiet, follow your hunt g & Trade & keep the Bostonians out of your Country in order to enjoy peace & plenty.

A Belt.

Indorsed: "Speech to the Indians at Michilimakinac, Copy of which sent to Major Depeyster the 3 d July '79."

185

NAVAL AFFAIRS ON THE UPPER LAKES.

A Return of the Officers their present pays upon the Up. per Lakes:

Officers names. The vessel commanding, &c. Pay per day month or year. Alexander Grant The Gage on Lake Erie, etc 15 shillings York currency a day. Thomas Robinson The Haldimand, Ontario 10 shillings ditto. James Andrews The Dunmore, Lake Erie 10

Library of Congress

shillings ditto. David Beaton The Ottawa, Erie 10 shillings ditto. Monsr Tushet The Seneca, Ontario Richd Cornwell Master Builder for the Upper Lakes 10 shillings ditto. Lieut of the Haldimand 8 shillings ditto. Lieut of the Seneca John Shipboy Storekeeper and clerk at Detroit £100 York currency a year.

MR. GRANT'S VESSELS EMPLOYED BY THE CROWN.

Willm Beker The Caldwell, Lake Ontario £12 a month. Willm Niccaroi The Hope, Lake Erie £8 a month. John Graham The Faith, Erie £8 a month. Wm Ferron The Angelica, Erie £8 a month N. Y. currency,

Quebec Octo r 14 th 1777.

Alex. Grant .

Remarks on the present State of the Naval Department, on the Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron & Erie: Detroit 27 th Octo r 1777.

Present L t Governor Hamilton, Sechariah Thomson Esq r James Andrews Esq r Capt. of his Majestys Ship Dunmore, David Belton Esq r Capt. of his Majestys Ship Ottawa, My Richard Cornwall Master Builder, and M r John Shipboy Kings Store keeper.

His Majestys Ship Gage mounting sixteen carriage Guns and six Swivels requires for her Compliment at the rate of three men per Gun—forty-eight men Officers included a commander, one Lieut., one Mate, one Boatswain, one Gunner, one Carpenter. The opinion of Capts. Thompson, Andrews & Belton—N. B. Capt. Alex. Grant gone to Quebec.

186

His Majestys vessel Dunmore mounting twelve Guns & four Swivels, requires for her compl t thirty six men officers included—one Commander, one Lieut., one Mate, one Boatswain, one Gunner, & one Carp tr . The opinion of Capts. Thompson, Andrews & Belton.

Library of Congress

His Majesty's Schooner Ottawa mounting twelve carriage Guns, four Pounders, six Swivel blunderbusses requires for her Complement thirty six men, officers included—one Commander, one Lieut, one Mate, one Boatswain, one Gunner & one Carpenter.

Pay for the officers, petty officers & men on board of the above mentioned Kings ships. Commander at per diem, ten shillings ster. with the allowance of two servants. Lieutenant do five Shillings ster. with the allowance of a servant. Mate at per month five pounds ster. Boatswain per do four pounds ster. Gunner do four pounds ster. Carpenter per diem five shillings and eight pence ster. One seaman per month two pounds five shillings ster. Each Capt. to have an allowance from the Lieut. Governor pro tempore for the lodging of his men in the winter the Contractors having formerly made an allowance for it till proper Barracks can be built.

N. B. The above rate of pay agreed upon by Lieut. Governor Hamilton, Captains Thompson, Andrews and Belton, for the reasons following:

The remoteness of situation, the excessive prices of commodities especially shoes, stockings and other prices current for example, shoes twelve shillings ster. per pair, coarse stockings six shillings ster. the pair, check linnen three shillings and six pence ster. per yard, other things proportionally dear—soap two shillings and four pence ster. per lb. The Wyandott Boat, four Guns, two pounders to be sent up, and six swivel blunderbusses, ten men, a master, a Mate, Boatswain & Gunner.

Indorsed: "State of the Naval Department at Detroit, 27th October 1777."

The Schooner Hope taken into the Kings employ, 25th August 1775 mounting four four pounders and two two pounders requires 187 for her complement eighteen men, officers included—one Lieutenant to command, one Mate, one Boatswain, one Gunner.

Library of Congress

The Sloop Angelica—six swivels; twelve men including officers—viz. one Lieut. to command, one Mate, one Boatswain.

Faith Schooner—four swivels; ten men, including a Master to command with a Boatswain & Gunner.

Sloop Felicity—four swivels; eight men including a Master to command, one man as Boatswain & Gunner.

Sloop Welcome—two swivels; two Blunderbusses; eight men including a Master to command, one Boatswain & Gunner.

Sloop Adventure—six men including a Master and one man as Boatswain & Gunner.

Sloop Archangel—six men including a Master and one man as Boatswain & Gunner.

Row Galley—twenty-one men exclusive of a Lieut. one mate, one Boatswain & one Gunner, to row with sixteen oars; and to mount a twelve pounder in the Bow, & two six p rs in the stern, also ten swivel blunderbusses.

Small arms wanted in due proportion for the above vessels, swivel blunderbusses, Pistols, Cutlasses, Pole axes, ammunition, round & case shot, Flints, tinder-boxes, Match quick & slow, priming horns, wires, priming powder, port fires & other artillery stores.

N. B. A storekeeper necessary to take charge of all naval stores, his appointment one hundred pound ster. per ann. (with a servant, lodging, an office & an allowance for stationary) who is also to act as clerk of the cheque.

Memorandum . A Surgeon to be appointed with a salary of a hundred pound ster. per Ann. Provisions, fire, candle, lodging &c and a Medicine chest furnished by the

Library of Congress

Government in two years. The usual deductions to be made for Greenwich Hospital, chest of Chatham and office for sick & hurt seamen.

M r Richard Cornwall Master Builder to have ten shillings ster. per diem, two servants, a lodging with allowance of provisions, Fire, Candle &c, as the other officers of the department—none yet made.

188

Carpenters—six now employed, but not one qualified as a ship carpenter, one a Block & Pump maker. Two Blacksmiths & a Boy at present employed—good workmen one of them an Armourer.

Four more good carpenters much wanted. No buildings as yet for the department, as Barracks Lodging for the Master Builder, Storekeeper, Carpenters, Smiths &c.

Memorandum . A Surgeon on an allowance not appointed; no provisions for maimed seamen &c—which was notorious in the late Indian War, when wounded seamen were left to shift for themselves.

N. B. The Rank & Subordination of officers not put on a proper footing, of course discipline much wanting.

As a due subordination is absolutely necessary for carrying on the Kings service, and as hitherto for want of it, Discipline has been extraordinary relapsed it is humbly proposed to His Excellency the chief Governor of the province that a proper person be nominated to the Post of *Supervisor* of the Department for the Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan & Superior, who is to inspect the several branches, keep Cheque Books, give regular orders for the Payment of the Department, receive the stoppages, etc., who shall have his accounts suspect to an Audit by some person authorized by the Commander in Chief of the Province.

Library of Congress

To ascertain the Ranks of officers, Mode of Tryals, punishment &c for want of which regulations the Service has hitherto greatly suffered, and a proper authority has wanted Support.

Submitted, if it shall be left to captains of the Vessels to name their Warrant Officers, but not displace any without due Examination or Tryal.

Submitted, if it be not proper to fix a price on steerage or cabin passengers they having as yet been a great burthen & inconvenience to Commanders of Vessels on the communication.

Submitted, if Merchants should not make an allowance for the care of freights since the Commanders have hitherto been made responsible to them for damages.

Cabin passengers to pay from Fort Erie to Detroit five 189 Dollars. Steerage passengers one Dollar & to find themselves provisions. The same to Michilimackinac.

Henry Hamilton L t Gov r and Superintend t

Zack Thompson Inspector in the Naval Department

David Bolton Cap t of the Ottwa

Richard Cornwall Master Builder

John Shipboy Store Keeper

Indorsed: "Remarks by L t Gov r Hamilton; Captains Thompson & Bolton, Mr Cornwall Master Builder & John Shipboy Store Keeper, 1778."

Colonel Boltons oppinion in Regard to the Naval Department (Viz.)

The Sccow Haldimand.

Library of Congress

The Sloop Seneca.

The Sloop Caldwell and one more of the same Burthing very usefull for Lake Ontario. The latter may be dispensed with.

For Lake Erie.

The Schooner Gage

The Ottawa when built

From Fort Slossar to Fort Erie.

The Schooner Hope

The Schooner Faith

The Schooner Dunmore for Lake Huron.

The Sloop Felicity not wanted in the service.

The Sloop Angelica not worthy of Repairs.

Lake Michigan—usefull by Report of Major Depeyster.

The Sloop Welcome the property of Mr. John Askin.

The Sloop Arch-Angle the property of Mess rs Barth & Son.

The Wyandott, Paquit, Burthing 30 Tons; when launched to be employed from Detroit to Fort Erie, on Lake Huron. Ordered to be built by Gov r Hamilton.

Indorsed: "Return to the different Vessels on the Upper Lakes, Niagara 10 th May 1778."

Library of Congress

190

Memorandum relative to the naval department on the Upper Lakes for Capt Thompson.

1 st—To enforce the propriety of making a suitable allowance of the freights, or otherwise—for the risque, and trouble of carrying Merchandize, passengers, Traders, Merchants and others, not employed in the Kings Service.

2 d—To know the General's pleasure, respecting the deduction usually made in His Majesty's Navy for Greenwich Hospital, the Chest of Chatham, Sick and Hurt Officers, for it is to be apprehended, that unless such deductions be made from the department on these Lakes, that those employed there will not be entitled to the benefit of these Institutions.

3 d—Every possible means to be taken to prevail on the General to continue the present allowance of one & a half ration of provisions, with rum to the Seamen in the department.

4 th—One uniform pay to be established for all officers of the same rank, and for *all* Seamen employed in the department; to have fixed the pay of Boatswain pr Month, Gunners per month.

5 th—Capt. Grant to procure from some Officer in the Navy Copies of Indents, for Boatswains, Gunners and carpenter Stores, articles of War, regulations for the Navy and last years Naval list.

6 th—To apply to the General, and to the Officer Commanding His Majesty's Ships in the River S t Lawrence for Boatswains and Gunners,—particularly Boatswains, those trained upon the Navy being such as will carry their officers Orders into execution with spirit, and be it remembered that on Boatswains, the executive part of the duty and discipline of ships crews in a great measure depends.

7th—To endeavour to regulate the allowance for officers during y e winter season. House rent for those that have not Barracks, also Candles.

Library of Congress

8 th—Shou'd unfortunately, the allowance of Provisions be reduced, there will be an absolute necessity of paying the Seamen for extra Work, as customary in the Army; perhaps, there would be no impropriety in some small pay for 191 the Laborious extra Work of the Seamen during the Winter, cutting Ships Timbers, sawing &c.

9 th —To procure orders from the General to enlarge Niagara Navy Hall Wharf, there being too little Water at the present Wharf to Careen large Vessels at, and it being too small for three Vessels to Winter at.

10 th —To procure orders to enclose Detroit Ship yard, to Build Barracks for the officers and Seamen, Store House and Rigging Loft.

11 th —To procure orders to build a Vessel at Niagara, in lieu of the Haldimand, the state of her given in by the Masters Builder; informed that she cannot last above another year therefore no time should be lost to provide timber.

12 th —To procure orders to erect Barracks at Navy Hall, for the Seamen, a Riggin, and Sail Loft absolutely necessary to fix Rigging, and make Sails in the Winter.

James Andrews .

Niagara, 13 th May 1778.

Indorsed: "Memorandum relative to the Naval department on the Upper Lakes by Capt. Andrews, 13 th May 1778."

Memorandums, relative to the Naval Department of the Upper Lakes.

1 st —It being reported that the Seamen's allowance of one & a half ration of Provisions with half a pint of Rum per day, is shortly to be reduced to a single ration, which reduction, and at this particular juncture, tis much to be apprehended, will be very detrimental to His Majesty's service on these Lakes; and it must be further observed on this head, that

Library of Congress

shortly after the commencement of the Rebellion of the Colonies, Lieut. Gov r Hamilton and Capt. Grant were thro' circumstances (to be explained by Capt. Grant) under the necessity of entering into Articles with the seamen employed in the department at Detroit, assuring them that during the present troubles unless positively countermanded by the Commander in Chief, they, shou'd have one & a half Ration, with half a pint of Rum p r day, £4 N. York Currency p r Month, and thirteen months to the year, as customary in the navy,—A copy of these Articles were transmitted 192 [to] His Excellency Sir Guy Carleton, another copy was sent to Niagara for the Seamen to sign; but they thro' misapprehensions (to be explained by Capt. Grant) at first refused to sign. On further consideration and not long after they offered to sign them; but the Commanding Officers of the Post wou'd not have it done, therefore they were retained at their former wages—allowing them the one & a half ration per day with rum, such allowance being absolutely necessary.

2 dly —To request that the Naval Stores sent up for the Department may be directed, separately for the posts of Niagara & Detroit, which will avoid confusion. A Naval storekeeper to be appointed for Niagara, and another for Detroit. Salary—.

3 d —These Naval storekeepers to act as Clerks, to receive from the Captains & Masters of the Vessels an account of their freights, to get certificates from the Merchants to deliver to the Commanding Officer &c.

4 th —The Commanders of His Majestys armed Vessels, having extraordinary trouble, in carrying Merchandize, and almost always crowded with passengers, of Merchants, Traders, Clerks, and others not employed in His Majesty's service, but on their own immediate and most lucrative business. The Commanders apprehend this to be something out of their line of duty, therefore beg leave to submit to His Excellency's consideration, seine allowance of the freights, and some regulations respecting passengers unemployed by the Crown.

Library of Congress

5th —No fixed pay being settled for MasTer Builders at Niagara and Detroit, and it being impossible to conduct the service without such officers, tis requested to fix their pay per day.

6th —The Scow Seneca's Crew having but low wages, tin hoped in justice to them, and the usual custom of the Navy that their pay may be raised, Officers & Seamen equal to the others in the Department.

7th —The propriety of requesting His Excellency to order the Surgeons; attending the Naval Department at Niagara & Detroit, Medecines at the expence of the Crown.

193

8th—Capt. Andrews commanding the Department on Lake Ontario, being subject to more expense & duty than other captains, submit to His Excellencys consideration some addition to his pay as Cap t of the Haldimand.

9th—The officers conducting the Department apprehend it would be much more advantageous to the service to leave out 2^d Lieutenant, and in lieu to Warrant Mates with second Lieut s pay.

The above regulations appear to be for the good of His Majesty's Service.

Niagara, May 13th 1778.

Zach Thompson ,

Alex Grant Comd g H. Majestys Vessel.

J no Burnet Comd g His Maj' s Scow Haldimand.

James Andrews , Command g on Lake Ontario.

Library of Congress

B. Bouchette .

Indorsed: "Memorandums, relative the Naval Department on the Upper Lakes, by Lieut Colo. Bolton, Captains Thompson & Grant & the Commanders of the different vessels on the Upper Lakes 13 th May 1778."

The following Establishment is formed by his Excellency the Commander in Chief for the better Government and payment of the Naval Force employed on the different Lakes.

Samuel Graves Esq r commodore—Over all the Lakes and the Commanding Naval Officer in each District will send regular reports to him.

John Schank Esq r commissioner—Who is to direct the Master Builder in all constructions alterations and repairs of the fleet and the Storekeepers of the different districts are to be responsible that they may Issue Stores exactly agreeable to his Instructions.

L t Wm. Twiss, Controller—Who is to hire and regulate the List of all artificers to examine all the Naval Stores that are purchased and to certifie all Expenses incurred in the Department.

Honb le Tho s Dunn Esq r Pay Master—Both for the Military and Civil Departments. 13
194

Rules for Payment

No Officer to be paid as such but who has a Commission from the Commander in Chief.

Every Vessel actually employ'd and carrying 14 Guns and upwards to be allowed: 1 Boatswain £3.0.0; 1 Gunner £3.0.0.

Every vessel actually employ'd and carrying from 8 to 14 Guns: 1 Boatswain £2.15.0.

Library of Congress

Every vessel actually employed and not carrying 8 Guns: 1 Boatswain, £2.10.0.

To all Seamen properly mustered who are not however to exceed two thirds of the number serving: £2.0.0.

To all ordinary Seamen properly mustered: £1.10.0.

It is to be particularly observed that the Warrant Officers receive their Stores regularly from the different Store keepers, and keep an Exact account of their Expenditures so that before they can receive their Pay, the Store keepers certificate of such charges and such Expenditure must be proceeding.

Indorsed: "General Establishment for the better Government and Payment of the Naval Force, employ'd on the different Lakes. July 1 st 1778."

General Orders and Regulations, for the better Government of His Majestys Armed Vessels &c., &c., employ'd on the different Lakes—

1 st That the Lakes be considered as divided into three separate commands, Vize— One Including Lake Champlain and Lake George, another Lake Ontario, and the third Lake Erie together with the three Upper Lakes: and all His Majesty's Armed and other Vessels, Navigating in these Lakes shall be Commanded by the Senior Naval Officer in that particular District provided always that such seniority be estimated from the tenor and date of their Commissions granted by his Excellency the Commander in Chief, and subject to the Command of any Commodore who may be ordered to act on all the Lakes.

2 d That the articles of War be read on board each Vessel, to all the men belonging to her, at least once every month, 195 and the assistant Store keeper at each District, is also to Muster each Vessels Complement once a Month at such time as he finds most convenient on giving a reasonable notice thereof to the Commander; in these Musters

Library of Congress

must be marked down all Absentees and the reason, but the cheques for all neglects are to be left to the officer who regulates the payment.

3 d That the Senior Naval Officer on each Lake consider himself not only under the Command of the Commander in Chief, but also of the Eldest Land Officer serving in the same District: in all other cases whatever the Naval Officer will take Rank, and, Command agreeable to His Excellency's Commission and conformable to the Rule of Naval Rank, established by King and Council; it is nevertheless to be strictly observed that no land Officer is to interfere with the Interior discipline of the Seamen or in any of the Minutia belonging to the Naval Department, nor shall any Naval Officer interfere in any respect with the interior regulations of the Land Service.

4 th That as the Commander in Chief has thought proper to appoint a Commodore for the Command of the Naval Force on all the Lakes, to whom the Commanding officer in each District will report likewise a Commissioner Controller and a Pay Master for the whole Department who with the assistance of such Store-keepers Assistant Pay Masters, Master Ship-wrights and Clerks as may from time to time be appointed to act under their directions as the different districts, are to superintend and direct the construction, alteration and repairs of all Vessels & Boats whatsoever, and they are also to regulate the payment of the Warrant officers and Seamen likewise the hire and pay of all Artificers, employ'd in the Naval Department as well as the Purchasing and Issuing of every species of Stores belonging to or in any wise appertaining to the Naval Department. The Commander in Chief therefore directs that all officers both in the Land and Naval Service, do conform themselves in their requests or demands for Stores, of any nature whatsoever, to such rules as the Commissioner or Controller may Point out as conformable to their Instructions from the 196 Commander in Chief, and all officers in both services, are to give every assistance in their power to all officers and others employed in this line of Service.

5 th No Vessels to be constructed on the establishment of any Kings Vessels altered without an order from the Commander in Chief, nor is any private person whatsoever to

Library of Congress

Build any Vessel or Boat, or even Navigate a Caneau without a proper Pasport on any Lake on pain of being seized and put into Confinement.

6 th The Seamen &c are always to be paid in Cash, the payment to be made in January and cleared up to the 30 th Septem r Inclusive—The Eldest Land & Naval Officers on the spot with the Commissioner and Controller or their assistants present will attend and certifie the Payment and assist in Determining the cheques & in Rectifying any Mistakes or Abuses which may appear.

7 th All officers and Seamen constituting any part of the Naval Force are to Receive their provisions from the Commissary General, at the same Rations precisely as the rest of His Majestys Troops and during the time they are laid up in the Winter will be furnished by the Barrack Master with the same proportion of Fire and Candles &c.

8 th A Contractor shall be agreed with either at Montreal or Quebec, who shall supply all the Seamen on the different Lakes, with Slops and tobacco, these Articles shall be furnished at the common Market price and delivered to the Naval Store-keeper who will forward them to the different Posts, at the Kings expence.

The assistant Storekeeper who issues them to be allowed Five per Cent, for doing this duty which is to be charged on the Slops and Tobacco, and it is positively ordered that no Seamen be furnished with any Article without an Order in writing from the Officer commanding the Vessels he belongs to, and even then the amount not to exceed twenty Shillings p r Month. Either the Commissioner or Controller with some Naval officer should any be present will examine the Slops before they are Received from the Contractor; they will send seperate samples sealed and Marked to each Post and the Naval officers there will take care that the Slops furnished 197 are conformable to the samples, certificates from some Eminent Merchants must also be sent with the Slops, that they are charged at the Market Price.

Library of Congress

The amount of the Slops to be stopt from the Seamen, at every payday and to be paid to the Contractor so soon after as possible.

9 th The Commander in Chief is determined to establish it for an invariable Rule, that no officer shall be Commissioned for the Naval Department on the Lakes, who has not been Four years at Sea.

10 th The Naval Officers and Seamen being Commissioned or entered to Act on all the Lakes at Large, they will be removed by the Commander in Chief, as the exigencies of the service may require—but no officer or other employed in His Majestys Service is on any pretence whatsoever to be concerned directly or Indirectly in any part of the Lake Trade on pain of being immediately dismissed.

Indorsed: “General Orders, and Regulations for the better Government of the Naval Force employed on the different Lakes. July 1 st 1778.”

A Return of Officers serving on the Lakes, 6 th July 1778.

Names. Ships names & from what place. Rank in the navy. Rank in the army. John Shank Canceaux Lieut Major William Chambers Montreal do Major J. Parker Harrison Treasury Board Lieut Commander 1 Lieut & Comdr J. R. Falconer do do 1 Lieut & Comdr James Allson Warwick Midshipman 2 Lieut Park Cirnegey Isis* do 1 do. Samuel Wickham Canceaux* do 1 do. Michael Mallon do do 2 do. F. R. Mowat do do do. Alexander Gordon Quebec do do. Ro'f Alder Warwick do do. Alex Menzie do do do. Antony Canfroy Quebec do do.

* On the Upper Lakes.

Indorsed: “Naval Department. A Return of Officers serving on the Lakes. 6 th July 1778.”

198

Library of Congress

Return of all the Vessels upon the Lake George, Champlain, Ontario, Erie, Huron & Michigan, &c. From the year 1759 till this date, Excepting employed at present upon Lake Champlain. Quebec 30 th July 1778.

Vessels Names. On what Lake. Place built at. What year. Number of Guns. French & when taken. Remarks. Sloop Lake George Fort George 1758 5 Lay'd up and decay'd. Brig. Duke of Cumberland Lake Champlain Tiandergo 1759 20 ditto Sloop Buscoven ditto ditto 1759 16 ditto Sloop Brochete ditto St Johns 6 Taken in 1759 In service till decay'd. Sloop Lochegeon ditto ditto 6 ditto ditto Sloop Masquenouge ditto ditto 6 ditto ditto Schooner Vigilant ditto ditto 8 Taken in 1760 Lay'd up till decay'd. Sloop Waggon ditto ditto 6 ditto ditto Row Galley Grand Diable ditto ditto 1 ditto ditto Row Galley Petit Diable ditto ditto 1 ditto ditto Sloop Betsey ditto ditto 6 Taken by the Rebbels. Sccow Mohawk Lake Ontario Niagara 1759 & 60 16 Cast away in 1764. Ship Onedago ditto Oswego 1760 18 Cast away in 1764. Sloop Mussasago ditto ditto 1760 8 ditto in 1765. Schooner Mercury ditto ditto 1760 6 Lay'd up and decay'd. Sccow Johnston ditto Oswegatchie 12 Taken in 1760 Cast away 1764. Schooner ditto ditto 12 do ditto 1761. Schooner ditto ditto 6 do ditto 1761. Schooner Brunswick ditto Oswego 1765 10 In service till decay'd. 199 1778 Sccow Haldimand ditto Oswegatchie 1771 18 Still in Service. Sccow Sennica ditto ditto 1777 18 ditto Sloop Charity ditto Niagara 1770 6 Swivels Cast away in 1777. Sloop Caldwell ditto ditto 1774 2 Still in Service. Sloop Lake Erie Navy Island 1763 8 Cast away in 1764. Schooner Victory ditto ditto ditto 6 Lay'd up & burned by accident. Schooner Boston ditto ditto 1764 8 ditto Schooner Gladwin ditto ditto ditto 8 In service till Decayed. Sloop Charlotte ditto ditto ditto 10 ditto Schooner Gage ditto Detroit 1773 16 Still in service. Schooner Dunmore ditto ditto ditto 12 ditto Schooner Hope ditto ditto 1771 4 Swivels ditto Sloop Chippewa ditto Pine River 1769 4 ditto Cast away Nov.? 1775. Sloop Angilica ditto Detroit 1771 4 ditto Still in service. Schooner Faith ditto ditto 1774 4 ditto ditto Sloop Felicity ditto ditto 1775 ditto Sloop Adventure ditto ditto 1776 4 ditto ditto Sloop Welcome Lake Huron Michilimackinac 1777 ditto Sloop Archangel Lake Michigan Detroit 1774 ditto Sloop Wyandall Lake Erie ditto On the stocks. —Paquet ditto ditto Sccow O. tawa ditto ditto Ke.l Lay'd stem & stern posts raised.

Total 40 Sails.

200

Library of Congress

A general return of His Majesty Arm's Vessels, &c by Order of His Excellency General Haldimand &c &c &c under the direction of Captain John Shank, Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan, 1 st January 1779.

Number of Vessels. No. of Guns. Number of Men. Vessels Names. Commanders Names. How Rigged. Quality & Quantity of Metal. Prs. 4. Prs. 3 Prs. 2 Howz or Swivels. Built
Detroit in Spring 1772. 1 12 27 Gage Alexr Grant Schooner 12 Ditto 72 2 10 19 Dunmore
Jno Bennet ditto ditto Ditto 71 3 4 6 Hope James Graham ditto ditto Ditto 71 4 6 Angelica
Wm Ferrin Sloop 10 Do 74 5 7 Faith Wm Thorne Schooner 4 6s Do 73 6 5 Felicity John
Loughton Sloop ditto 6s On the Stocks 7 Ottaway " ditto 4s By this time launched 8
Windate " 4s 26 20

Guns & Total of Swivels 46.

201

A Return of Civil Officers & Men employ'd in His Majestys Dock-yard at Detroit, Lakes Erie, Huron & Michigan 1 st January 1779.

Master Builder, Naval Storekeeper, Foremen of Ship Wrights, Foremen of H. Carpenter, Foremen of B. Smiths, Master sail maker, B. of the yard, 1 each.

Artificers & Labourers, 17.

Surgeon wanted.

His Excellency General Haldimand, &c &c &c

John Schank , Commissioner.

A Return of the Officers their present pays upon the Up. per Lakes:

£ s. d. Quebec 1549 12 Lake Champlain 2389 8 6 Niagara 2836 19 7 Detroit 2271 19 4
Total £0047 19 5

An account of the pay of the Civil Department in the Province of Canada.

Library of Congress

£ s. d. Quebec 91 Lake Champlain 2293 4 Niagara 1419 12 Detroit 1696 10 4 Total £5500
6 4

John Shank , Commissioner.

His Excellency General Haldimand &c &c &c.

Indorsed: "A general account of the pay of the Naval & Civil Department in the Province of Canada. 1 st Jan y 1779."

202

An account of the pay of the Civil Department in the Province of Canada.

Whole amount. 3 servants to Capt Grant at £2-6-8 per Mo £ s. d 2 do to Capt Burnett at 2-6-8 P. Month 243 13 4 1 do to Capt Graham at 2-6-8 P. do (one year) 1 Carpenter of the Scow Haldimand at 5s. P day 2 Servants to Capt Andrews at £2-6-8 P. Mo 2 do to Capt Bouchet at 2-6-8 P. Mo 1 do to Capt Baker at 2-6-8 P. do 297 5 4 1 do to Lieut Chaquet at 2-6-8 P. do 1 do to Lieut Harrow at 2-6-8 P. do 1 Carpenter at 4-13-4 P. do 1 Coxon at 2-11-4 P. do Sineca 190 12 3 1 Armourer at 2-11-4 P. do 1 Pilot at 4-17-3 P. do On Lake Ontario. 1 Apprentice to Mr. Cornwell at £2-6-4 P. Mo 1 Sergeant to Mr. Shipboy at 2-6-4 P. Mo 78 8 8 1 do to Mr. Bennett at 2-6-4 P. Mo In the Shipyard at Detroit. Total £808 19 7

N. B. At Detroit a storeroom £100 P. year; House Rent to Capt. Grant £25 ditto; House Rent to Capt. Beeton £19 ditto.

Some other sums which was presented to your Excellency that I dont at present recollect.

John Schank , Commissioner.

Indorsed: "An Acc t of the pay of Servants &c. belonging to the different Vessels on the Upper Lakes that are not allowed. 1 st Jan y 1779."

203

A VOYAGE ON LAKE MICHIGAN—1779.

Library of Congress

Remarks on Board his Majestys Sloop Felicity by Samuel Roberts on Piloting her on Lake Michigan.

Thursday 21st of October 1779 at 10 A. M. we left Mitchlemackina the wind moderate and south the weather warm and hazy; at 12 squally; haul'd ye T. sail; steared W. B. N. clear of Wabashaw p t ; at 2 P. M. the wind freshened & hauling to ye S. S. W. the weather looking black to the West; we had Wabashaws p t bearing S. E. in 7 fa t ; we past the p t in 2½ f ms , we then haul'd the vessel close; she steard W. S. W. a great swell from the S.W. At Sun Sett Tak'd to the Eastward we was then about a League dis t from the North west of the beever isln'd in 2½ fa m stoney bottom; the weather Looking black to the S. W. and the gail freshening we bor away for the lee of Wabashaws p t at 7 P. M. cam too in 4½ f m the p t bearing S W 2 miles distance; cloudy weather with showrs of rain; at 12 this night hard showrs of rain with squals of wind. At 6 A M got underway from the N W; we stood S W B W in 4 f m & stood E S E towards Wabashaws p t . We wore again & stood over West untill we had the beever island bearing West; the wind shifted to the North W; at 9 A. M. we tak'd & stood S S W, our course to the Manatoo islands; dark weather and a heavy swell from the S S W. At 11 left the reef out of Mainsail & set the T sail Cutt 6 fathoms from the end of the but bour Cabbel [cable] it being wore out, & bent the best end; the wind light & variable from N to N W. Nothing mere remarkable this 24 hours.

Remarks on Fradey 22^d October 1779 — At 12 this day the wind N W rain & thick weather; at 2 P. M. the wind hauling N we Sett the square saile we then had the grand beever island bearing West 2 Leagues at 4 P. M. the wind hauling to the West we haul'd the squar saile a hard rain & thick weather; at 4 P M the wind hauling to the W. S. W. haul'd the T. sail; a fresh gale with small rain. I then saw an island to Leeward about three Leaugs which I took for Northmost 204 for the Manatoo islands but not being able to weather it I thought proper to come too on the Lee side in 4 fa m watter. At 12 this night hard squals with showrs of snow at day light this morning the wind hauling to the S S W

Library of Congress

she trip d the Anchor we pased out $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cabbel & dropt the other Anchor she brought up & ride the remainder of this 24 hours. The wind again howling to the W. S. W.

Remarks on Saturday 23 October 1779 — At 12 this day squally with showrs of snow; the wind W S W a hard gale. At 2 P. M. hoist out the boat & sent on shear for fire wood; the wind more moderate at sun sett hoist in the boat & weighed the other Anchor expecting the wind from the N. W. the weather thick with showrs of snow; at 12 this night the wind shifted W N W; we weighed Anchor and stood along shear for the opning of the island, but I finding the land still appear further, & not like the Manatoo islands I therefore concluded it must be the grand Irarane I imeaditly wore the vessel & stood out.

The remainder of this 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours we kept tacking to windward the wind verrey variable & squally with showrs of snow from W N W to S W.

Remarks on Sunday 24 th October 1779 — At 12 this day the wind varible with showrs of snow & heavey swell from the S W cloudy & thick weather; at 2 P M let the reef out of the Mainsail & sett the flying jibb more moderate but a great swell still continued so that we gained verrey little ground.

At sun sett the weather more clear; we had the North Manatoo island bearing N W 4 Leaugs dis t ; we then steered closs upon a wind N N W & sometimes North; at 8 P M tak'd to the south. At 12 this night the wind howling to the N W sett the Top Sail at A M the wind howling to S W; we then had the Middl Manatoo Island bears S W 3 Leaugs. Nothing more remakable this 24 hours.

Remarks on Monday 25 October 1779—At 12 this day the Wind S W; we stood in shear about a Leag to the southwr d 205 of the River a Carp; at 1 P M Taked and stood to the end of the Manatoo island.

At 4 P M Tak'd about a Mile distance from the Manatoo island and stood over to the Main Land the Wind being so varible we gained no ground so we Tak'd and cam too under the

Library of Congress

island in 3 fathoms; the wind S W clear night with a fresh gale; at 8 A M hoist out the boat & sent on shore for fire wood the people on board employ d repairing riging & sails. M r Gautly and me went on shore to bunt; saw no game so we came on board after having traversed the island. Nothing more this 24 hours.

Remarks on Tusday 26 October 1779—At 12 this day a fresh gale from the S W; the hands employed repairing the rigging & Topsail; at 2 P M Monsieur Gautly & me began to clean the swivels and place them properly on the gunweale but being ill provided with tools for that purpose M r Gautly giving a Blow to settle one of them in its place broke off the nut; a fresh gale & clear weather. At sun sett the wind moderate & hauling to the southward the remainder of this night clear & moderate. At sun rise the wind freshened up from the S S W; the hands employ'd setting up the stays & rigging greas, everything going so heavey that it required all hands to hoist the mainsail. Nothing more this 24 hours.

Remarks on Wednesday 27 October 1779 — At 12 this day the wind light and hauling to the S S E; we weighed anchor an stood out from the island; the wind variable & light sometimes we had it from the S W and other times from S E so that we could not gett a Leauge from the island; when sun sett we hoist in the boat at 6 P. M. a light breeze from the S E; at 8 P M we past the sleeping Bear the wind fresh; Reef d the T sail; the [wind] hauling to the S S. E.

At 12 this night hau d ye T sail & flying gibb & closs reef d the M. sail; a strong gale and a rowling swell from the S B E; we kept upon this Take the remainder of the 24 hours so that I imagined to have made S W B W course; at 8 A. M. 206 saw the west Shoar, the wind moderate; lett the T sail & flying Jibb. The weather heazy. Nothing more this 24 hours.

Remarks on Thursday 28 th October 1779 — At 12 this day observed the merr d alt [meridian altitude] & found the Latt 44. 25. We was then about 2 Leaugs from the Shoar but as I never had been on that part of the Lake we could not name the land but I suppose by the distance we had made to be about 30 Leauges from Millwakey. At 1 P. M. Taked

Library of Congress

and stood over E B S. A fresh gale from the S S E at Sun Sett hau d the Topsail and closs reef d the mainsail a strong gale & a heavy swell. At 10 P M the wind moderate & clear, lett the reef out of the Main sail and sett the flying gibb the wind S S W.

At 12 this night moderate weather & clear; saw the Land on the lee Bow; at 2 A. M. Taked & stood S W. B W.

At 10 A M Tak d and stood S E. Nothing more remarkable this 24 hours.

Remarks on Fraday 29 th October 1779—At 12 this day a strong gale from the S B W and a heavy swell. We stood in Shoar abrest of the River Mauhesty and Tak'd about a Leauge from the shoar. I then saw the point of Sabec wor 5 leaugs to windward; we stood out S W B W; at 2 P M closs reef d the main Sail & haul d the flying gibb, a hard gale & heavey weather; at 12 this night the wind more moderate but the swell still continued; at 1 A M we saw the land under our Lee about a Leauge dis t . We Tak d , the wind verrey light but hazey weather; at sun rise the wind freshned up at South & S & B W we stood over for the other shoar E S E & S E B E the wind still increasing and continued on the south point hazey weather.

Nothing more remarkable this 24 hours.

Remarks on Saturday 30 October 1779 — At 12 this day I observed the Merr d Alt & and found the Latt. 44.20 only 5 Miles to Windward where we was two days Before; we saw the land and fled to windward about 1 mile this 24 hours; at 2 P M we raked and stood off W S W; a strong gale at 1 P M handed the mainsail by two with the foresail & jibb a 207 verry hard gall from the south & S B W; the vessel cam up S W B W & fell off W B S with the heave of the see and Lee way. I suppose we made a West Course 1 Leauge p r hour; at 10 this night the Wind more moderate but a heavey swell; at 2 P M the Wind howling to the S W we wore and hoist the mainsail; about half an hour afterwards the wind kept hauling untill it cam to the North a fresh breeze but the swell being so heavy from the S W we made littel way untill day light then we lett the reef out of the mainsail & sett the square

Library of Congress

sail & Topsail; at 10 A M saw the littel point of Sabel 5 Leauges a head we then steered S E B S 7 miles p r hour.

Nothing more this 24 hours. Cloudy weather.

Remarks on Sunday 31 st October 1779—At 12 this day I observed the Merr. alt and found the Latt 43.49. We was then abrest of the little point of Sab b about 2 miles distance a fresh gale from the N B E I supposed we was going about 7 or 8 miles pr hour.

At 3 P M past the river Blanch the wind N B W; at 5 this afternoon cam too a brest of the river Mishegon in 4 fath m Watter half a mile from the shoar we imeaditly hoist out the Boat & sent M r Gautly with the 2 french men on shoar. I ordered him to fetch the negro on Board & also any indean that might be there; at 5 this night M r Gautly cam on Board with the negro & 3 indeans; on of the indeans being a chife at Albacroixs [L'Arbre Croche] nam d Lafie du fableu, they give us a present of what venisson they had in return for which we give them two bottels of rum and a pice of Tobacco with a pice of Bread & pork for which they thank'd us & seemed pleased. M r Gautly told them governor Sinclairs orders at which they give their not [note] of aprobation; he Likewise delivered some strings of wampum with & 2 glls kegg of rum & a carrot of Tobacco to Black Piter which promised faithfully to deliver it to the grand sabra, and also the governors message their with; I then inquired concerning the negros with the littele vessel; he told me that they pased there 15 or 20 days ago on their way to Mitchlimackna with M r Durors on board & 70 of his Saks & also 150 bags 208 he did not know for When he told me that there was 150 or 160 bags of corn belonging to Pollitt Chaboly 20 Leauges up the grand River but suposed the man who was taking care of it had no canes to send it down the river; he also told me that there was 200 bags of corn there in cack [cache] belonging to M r Legons who fitted him out with goods last year but as he had sent him no men nor cane this fall as he expected it must remain there this winter as the indeans in whose possession it was had all left that place for their wintering ground. I enquired if he heard any news of the Rebels; he told me that there was not any news of them upon which I determined to go in the grand River & doo

Library of Congress

my indeavour to get that corn of Chaboleys; the remainder of this night a fresh breeze from the N. N. E Cloudy weather. At day light this morning we weigh'd anchor & stood for the grand River S S E a wind from the East; at 10 A M we cam in the river about 2 cabbell lengths & moored her with the anchor on the shear the Bank being steep too so that we stept from the vessels gunwale on the shoar; the narrowest part of the river at the entrance is about 70 or 80 yards wide 3 & 4 fathoms deep, upon the bare is 2 fathoms. I imeadetlay sent M r Gautly with 3 hands in the boat up 4 Leauges to the first indean village in purpose to see if it was possible to get canos to fetch down the corn.

Nothing more this 24 hours.

Remarks on Monday 1 st September 1779—At 12 this day a fresh Breeze from the N. W. At 12 this night M r Gautly returned but saw no indeans although he was 6 leauges up the River, therefore saw it was truth which the indeans at Mishigon had told us that they had all left the Lake side upon account of some distemper of which a great many had died; the negro at the River Mishigon also told me that, none of the tradders had yett passd for the grand River nor the Kikanamago [Kalamazoo].

I therefore determined to gett out of the river as soon as possible the season looking like winter with showers of snow and squals of wind from the N W.

209

At 8 A M the wind hauling to the N N W we imeadetly got underway and got safe out. We kept her along shoar for the Pikanamaso, as M r Gaulty told me that he expected M r D. Moghill would be at the entry to whom he would give the strings of Wampum and keg of rum to Deliver to the Ottawas; at 11 this day we cam a Breast of the Kikanamass we hauld down the Main sail and Lay too with the jibb, and fired a swivell; in the span of half an hour we fixed 3 swivels but saw no sign of any smoak or any person on the shoar although we was not above a quarter of a mile from the rivers Mouth. I waited about an hour; Closs reefd the Main saile; as the wind kept hauling off the Lake & freshening up I thought it

Library of Congress

would be imprudent to make any delay as there was no certainty of finding any person contiguous to the Lake at that place, besides it was impossible for us to send on shoar it Blowing a gale of wind.

Nothing more this 24 hours.

Remarks Tuesday 2 d November 1779—At 12 this day the wind W N W a strong gale with showers of hail; we steered about S S W intending to call at the river a Chemame.

At 4 P M the wind howling to the west we could not lay to the windward of S t Josephs River; we wore & stood closs upon a wind N N W a verrey strong gale & hazey; we was obliged to carry sail to keep her clear of the Lee shoar; at 12 this night the wind hauling to the N W we wore & stood back S W B W, the wind inclining to the N W. At 4 A M I suppose we was about 3 leagues from the shoar I still kept her upon that Take as the wind did not abate & I saw no appearance of our calling at the River a Chamain; at day light it began to snow and kept continuall squals with thick weather the remainder of the 24 hours.

Remarks on Wednesday 3 November 1779—At 12 this day the wind more moderate but freezing hard. I still kept close upon the wind & steared W N W; at 2 P M we saw the land ahead. At sun sett we was about 4 miles from the 14 210 shoar which suposed to be the pitet fort; the wind hauling to the N E & East I keep her along the shoar about North—at 8 this night the wind howling to the S E I steered N. N. E.

At 12 this night we handed the main sail & lay too so that we might not over run our distance; at day light we sett the main sail & stood in shoar we just fetched in to Millwakey Bay; at 8 A M a retry strong gale; we cam too in 4 fathoms watter; hoist out the Boat; sent M r Gautley & 4 hands on shoer with difficulty. Nothing more this 24 hours.

Remarks on Thursday 4 Nov. 1779—At 12 this day hard squals of wind from S W and hazey weather; at 2 this afternoon M r Gautly returned with 3 indeans and a french man who lives at Millwakey, nam d Morong nephew to Monsier S t Pier; one of the indeans,

Library of Congress

a war chef named Lodegand. M r Gautley gives them a present 3 bottles of Rum & half carrot of Tobacco, and also told them the manner governor Sinclair could wish them to Behave, at which they seemd weall satisfeyed, he also gave give instructions to Monsieur St Pier to deliver some strings of Wampun and a little Keg of rum to the following & a carrot of Tobacco in governor Sinclairs name; likewise the manour how to behave; he also gave another small Keg with some strings of Wampum with a carrot of Tobacco to Deliver the indeans at Millwakey which is a mixed Tribe of different nations. M r Gaulty also give some strings of Wampum with carrot of Tobacco to MonsieUr St Pier to deliver to a chile named Chamboleé who lives closs by Saganac [Sigenauk] to atempt to fetch him in either by fair or forc'd method for which he would be weall rewarded. Monsieur St Pier also told us that Saganac had received a Belt from the Rebels desiring him to doo his Endeavour to keep all the other indeans from going to ware upon either side, but Chambolee said that they had deceived him to often by telling him that their ancient father the french was going to send people to live & trade amongst them, but he would now no longer believe them, & that he would go this spring and fetch a prissoner or scaulp from some of Langton' [Linctot's] men & make peace with his 211 father the English at Mishlimakna; the Indeans also told us that they had but a very poor crop this year & that they understood that their father suffred no merchandise to come there this winter; they had hid away all their corn for this winter but would fetch it to Michilmakna and trade it in the spring without they had goods sent them; they also told us that they had sent for Monsieur Fay which is at a place called the Deux Rivers [Two Rivers] 18 Leauges from Millwakey to the north; he has 2 Canos of goods from the commetee, but he said it was against his orders to go amongst them, or they suposd so as no trader had ever wintered at that place. Before Monsieur St Pier said that he believed there might be between 200 & 300 bags of corn to trade there in the spring he said that he raised between 40 & 50 bags for his owen use which was all that him & his 2 men had to live upon this winter; he also said that the in deans owed him about 80 or 100 bags & that they waited untill such time as he had merchandize & then they would pay their old debts and take new; he made interest with M r Gautley for a kegg of Rum for which he give 15 bags of corn which

Library of Congress

I received on board for government; the keg of Rum was sent on board to be delivered to the indeans of the grand River, but we could meet with none there; at 4 this afternoon I despatched the 3 indeans with M r Morny give them 3 pieces of pork & some peas for which they were thankfull & went on shore. We imeadtly weighed anchor and sett sail for Mitchilimakina, a fresh breeze from the S S W and hezey I steard N. N E a course which I supposed would fetch the Manatoo Islands.

Remarks on Fraday 5 November 1779—At 12 this day saw the island of Manatoo about 2 leaughs ahead the wind hauling to the N. W and squally handed the square Sail Topsail at sun down we cam too anchor under the lee of the Northmost these islands it looking verry blak to North I did not think it prudent to proceed further, for there is severall shoalds off from Wabashans point which would be impossible to avoid in a dark night. at 12 this night the wind more moderate we weighed anchor and kept under Easey sail all this night.

212

At sun rise we saw the point 3 Leagues ahead about N E B E we made sail and past the point at half past nine this morning.

Indorsed: "Remarks by Sam l Robertson Pilote on Board the Felicity Sloop on Lak Michigan."