

Papers from the Canadian archives, 1767-1814.

PAPERS FROM THE CANADIAN ARCHIVES—1767—1814.

In Vol. II. was presented the first installment of copies of documents in the historical archives of the Dominion of Canada, at Ottawa. The following are in continuation of the series, and probably exhaust the resources of the Canadian collection, so far as Wisconsin is concerned, during, the interesting period of English domination,—1763 to 1814. Where there are omissions, the matter stricken out has no bearing upon Wisconsin history.

GENERAL CARLETON¹ TO SUPERINTENDENT JOHNSON.²

1 Sir Guy Carleton, K. B., Governor of Canada, 1774—1778.— Ed.

2 General Sir William Johnson, Superintendent of Indian Affairs. Born in Ireland in 1715, and settling as a trader in the Mohawk valley in 1738, he became a favorite with the Iroquois. He played a prominent part in the French and Indian war, during which he was sole English Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and was of great service to the military department in keeping the Iroquois in good accord with English interests. He died at his home near Johnstown, N. Y., in 1774. His career is interestingly sketched in Parkman's *Montcalm and Wolfe*.— Ed.

Quebec 27 th March 1767.

Sir ,—I received the Favor of your Letter of the 27th of January, and shall allways think myself obliged to you for informing me of any irregularities committed by Persons from this Province,³ as by that Information I may be enabled to take such steps here, as may correct them for the future, and assist you in your Endeavours to prevent all Cause of Discontent to the Indians from hence: in Return I will communicate to you the complaints

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which I receive here, as I imagine this mutual Information must be of advantage to His Majesty's Service, whose Intentions are,

3 The Province of Quebec, including what is now Canada, and all that country lying north of the Ohio river and east of the Mississippi. See royal proclamation, Oct. 7, 1763, in *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., p. 46.— Ed.

24 that His Servants should promote the good of all His Subjects, as well as prevent any just cause of Discontent, to those under his Protection.

That the French who must always be our Rivals in Trade, often our open Enemies, should take every opportunity of gaining the affection of the Indians, and of misrepresenting us, I expect as a Thing of course; it belongs to us to defeat their Endeavours, whether fair or fraudulent, and by wise Regulations, honest dealing, and by kind Treatment to attach them to us, and avail ourselves of those Extensive Channels of Trade, to enlarge our Commerce to the utmost.

Your complaints of the Canadians, by which name I distinguish the Subjects of the King our Master, acquired by the Conquest of this Province, are so general that I can only make my Enquiries, and speak to them in as general a manner; When I talk here of that Perfidy, false Stories, or views of exciting an Indian War, you complain of, they appeal to Colonel Gladwin, and all the rest of our officers, who were Spectators of the last, and are confident these will give Testimony of very different Dispositions in them at that Time, when such views might have been more excusable, than at present, and that even then some of them were utterly ruined by the Indians for their attachment to us; they very plainly shew me, that such a War must be very destructive to them, and in case of such a Misfortune, that they then did, and would again cheerfully take up arms. to reduce them to Peace, by Force. Ever since my arrival, I have observed the Canadians with an attention bordering upon suspicion, but hitherto have not discovered in them either actions or Sentiments, which do not belong to good subjects. Whether they are right or wrong in their opinion of the Indian Trade, I submit to those whom the King has appointed to direct and superintend

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the same, but the unanimous opinion of all here, Canadians and British, is, that unless the present Restraints are taken off, that Trade must greatly suffer, this Province be nearly ruined, Great Britain be a considerable Loser, and France the sole Gainer, as they must turn the greatest Part 25 of the Furs down the Mississippi, instead of the St. Lawrence, they compute that a very large Quantity of Merchandise, formerly passed thro' this Province to Nations unknown to Pondiac [Pontiac], and too distant to come to any of our Posts, and that so much is lost of the consumption of British Manufactures. They say that their own Interest will allways be a sufficient Reason and Motive to treat these people well, and to use their utmost Endeavours to keep them in Peace, and the Canadians will engage to take some English in every Canoe, to acquire a knowledge of these Countries, and the Language, to shew they have no Jealousy at their becoming acquainted with this Trade. 'Tis imagined here, that the other Provinces, who are neither acquainted with these Countries, nor so advantageously situated for this Trade are the secret causes of their being so severely fettered; they presume to think each Province should be permitted to avail itself of its natural Situation, and acquired advantages, and that it would be as unreasonable in us to expect the Posts to the Southward should be shut up by Regulations, as long as ours are by a severe climate; that in this Respect all the King's Subjects should be considered as Brothers, or one Family, and that the Rivalship ought not to be between Province and Province, but between the King's Subjects and those of France and Spain; some have offered to prove, that two years ago, while they were confined to the Fort, the French or Spaniards from the Mississippi came within twenty Leagues of the Detroit, and carried off the very Furs, that were intended to clear off the Credit given the Indians the year before.¹ They even assert 'tis impossible to prevent them from carrying off by far the greatest Part of that Trade unless those Restraints are taken off, they maintain that the only possible Means of preventing those Evils for the future, and of removing the Discontents of the Indians, for not being supplied with the necessaries of Life as formerly, is to permit them to go among them as was the Practice of this Colony, that thereby they will be enabled to undersell the Mississippi Traders, detect their Artifices, and be the

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1 *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., p. 163, note 2.— Ed.

26 means of bringing them to Punishment, as it is their Interest and Duty so to do; but supposing the worst of them, they hope the King's Subjects of Canada are as much to be trusted, as the French from New Orleans, and ought to have the Preference, considering they carry up the British Manufactures only.

I have also had many Complaints of the Partiality and Violence of some Comissaries, but as I find by your Letters to Lieutenant Colonel Massey, you are already informed of them, I will not trouble you with a Repitition, not doubting but they will be properly punished, if they are found Guilty, the British in particular request, that for the future these may all be obliged to give Security for their good Behaviour, while in that Employment, but should they commit any Injustice, Partiality, or Violence, they may know how to recover proper Damages in a regular course of Law, this they think the more reasonable, as they on their side give Bond to observe the King's Regulations, which, if they do amiss, subjects them to suffer for it, in the same way, and not to be left to the Mercy of a Comissary, or of those Indians he may Hulloo after them, they begged of me to let them have a Copy of those Regulations, they give Security to obey, and that I would not leave them to the Information of a Comissary in those distant Parts, of whose Partiality they have already seen many Proofs, by suffering many to go out and trade abroad, they suspect for Value received, while the rest were confined to the Fort, that whatever was the King's Pleasure, they would submit to, but still it became necessary to be apprised thereof, as they must considerably lessen the Quantity of Merchandise for these Parts, and not be obliged to leave them packed up, and lodged in a Warehouse without, willingly submitting to let all be confiscated, if they sold for one Farthing, rather than bring them to a small Market in the Fort, exposed to all the accidents of Fire; this some of them preferred and practised at the Detroit. Had I those Regulations, I would have given them a Copy, but I am as yet uninformed of them.

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General Gage acquaints me you complain to him of seven Persons who are among the Indians without Passeports, 27 namely, Capucin, Lorain, La Motte, Pot de Vin, Bartholomé, Bergeron, and Richarville; the six last are Canadians, and have been settled among the Miamis and Onias from fifteen to twenty years, except Pot de Vin, who has been settled as long at Detroit, but I can give you no certain account of Capucin, who is also among the Miamis, it is supposed that is not his real name, but a fictitious one, to conceal that of his Family.

I have given some Presents to the Indians who came to see me at Montreal, as I find it was customary on the like occasions, and think that attention to them must have good consequences.

I am with Regard &c. Guy Carleton .

Indorsed:—"Copy of Lieut Govr. Carleton's answer to Sir Willm Johnson Bt. Super'int. &c 27th March, 1767. In Lieut Govr. Carleton's (No 4) of the 28th March 1767."

LIEUTENANT ROBERTS¹ TO GUY JOHNSON.²

1 Lieutenant Benjamin Roberts, 46th regiment of foot, and commisary for Indian affairs at Michillimackinac.— Ed.

2 Guy Johnson, born in Ireland in 1740, was the nephew and son-in-law of Sir William Johnson; at the latter's death (1774), he succeeded him as English Indian Agent. During the Revolutionary war, he kept the Iroquois stirred up against the Americans, and organized and armed the New York tories. In 1776, he accompanied the English troops from Canada in the expedition against New York city; and joining Brant, the Mohawk chief, he took part in several outrages against American settlers in the Mohawk valley. In 1779, he fought with the Indians against the American General Sullivan. On the success of the American arms, Johnson's estates in New York were confiscated.— Ed.

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Michillimackinac 20 th Augt 1767.

Dear Guy ,—New Scenes of Villany open every Day; last night a Quantity of Rum was conveyed out of the Fort about Midnight, I find that there is to be a Canoe loaded with Rum to go to La Bay³ which will pick up all the Skins, and perhaps get all the Traders scalp'd.

3 Green Bay.— Ed.

28

Potter and the Major¹ has quarrelled, he'll let me into the Secrets he knows; I have wrote to Capt. Claus² to get Potter examined upon Oath, it is very certain and no Secret that he declares, he will go off in the Spring, and not empty handed, I am very much embarrassed, all the Traders begging me to fall upon some means for the Security of their effects and Persons, it is imagined there will be Bloodshed in some of the Outposts by some of his People trying to force away Goods these Representations are so frequent and strong, that I have been obliged to beg the assistance privately of Capt. Spiesmaker, that in case he should attempt to make an Excursion to stop him, which he has promised, he has Belts and Pipes from several Nations, which he only is to speak upon, and that in their own Villages. Think on my Situation, my Life, Effects, and Reputation is in danger, he has given the Indians so much that I can scarce keep them in good Humor, tho' I give them more than I fear will be agreeable to you. There is the Nation of Cris or Christineaux, that had come down as far as the Grand Portage³ on their way here, by his Summons to his Council, they were very much dissatisfied last year by Captain Howard,⁴ he kicked their Belt about and used them very ill, These have been stop'd by Canoes that set out from this after the account of my coming up arrived, T'was of very bad Consequence to the Service my being delayed so long at Niagara waiting Capt. McCleod.

¹ Nathaniel Potter was clerk to Major Robert Rogers, then commandant of the fort at Michillimackinac. Rogers's rangers were famous in the French and Indian war. See Parkman's *Montcalm and Wolfe*.— Ed.

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2 Daniel Claus (written also Claes, Claesse and Clause) had served as an Iroquois interpreter under Sir William Johnson, in the French and Indian war. He married one of Johnson's daughters. In 1761, he was appointed captain in the 60th foot, but retired on half-pay in 1763. At the time of this letter he was one of Johnson's deputies. He remained for many years with the English Indian department and was in St. Leger's ill-fated expedition against Fort Schuyler (1777). His property in the Mohawk valley was confiscated by the United States in 1779. He died at Cardiff, Wales, in 1787. See biography of him in *N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, viii., p. 815.— Ed.

3 For description and historical sketch of Grand Portage, see *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., pp. 123–125.— Ed.

4 *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., p. 137, note 6.— Ed.

29

I am told that a man that is gone out for Groesbeck, with whom they say Rogers is concerned, has carried Belts to the Northwest. Rogers says if affairs to the N West don't turn out luckily, he must go off and its thought Groesbeck wont stay behind.

I give myself very little Rest am always attentive to the Public affairs and hope by my vigilance to prevent any bad Consequences.

I am &c Benj. Roberts

To Guy Johnson Esqr .

NATHANIEL POTTER'S DEPOSITION.

Mr. — Potter late of Michilimakinac maketh Oath upon the Holy Evangelists and saith, that about the Month of January in the Year of our Lord 1765 he became acquainted with Major Rogers who is now Commandant of the Fort of Michilimakinac, and that from that

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Time till this last Summer he has continued to be much connected with him, and employed by him in various ways. That he has several Times observed that the said Major Rogers was much dissatisfied with his Situation and expressed a distant Design of taking some extraordinary Methods to better it.

That the said Major Rogers sent the said Potter last Spring to Lake Superior, from whence he returned, about the latter end of last June — and in July last the said Major Rogers had a private conversation with the said Mr. Potter at the Fort at Michilimackinac, in which he explained his Designs to the said Potter, in a fuller Manner than he had ever done before. He said he was much in Debt to several Traders, whom he was unable to pay, and that this gave him great uneasiness. That he was therefore resolved to apply to the Government of England to do something to better his Situation, and that he wished they would erect the Country about Michilimackinac into a separate Province, and make him Governor of it, with a Command of three Companies of Rangers, Independent of Sir William Johnson or the Commander in Chief of the 30 Forces in America, that this would satisfy him and make him easy, and nothing else would: and he proposed to Mr. Potter to go to England to make these Proposals to the English Government in his behalf, and to let him know in the speediest Manner possible the success of his Negotiation, for that, if he did not meet with success he would immediately upon receiving notice of his Disappointment, quit his Post and retire to the French towards the Missisipi and enter into the service of the French where he was sure to meet with better Encouragement: That he had lately had a Letter from one Hopkins,¹ who is now in the French Service in one of their West Indian Islands: That in that Letter Hopkins had offered him great Encouragement if he would embrace the French Interest and stir up the Indians against the English; That he was sure he should get great Riches and be a great Man if he was to go over to the French, and therefore he was resolved to do so if the English Government did not comply with his Proposals; and that he advised Potter to do the same as it would be much for his Interest; That upon Potter's expressing some surprise and Indignation at this Proposal, as being contrary to his Duty and Conscience, Rogers told him he was a fool; that he had

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hitherto taken him for a man of sense and his Friend that would join in any Scheme to serve him; but that now he found he was mistaken; But he said that for himself he was resolved to do so if his Proposals were not complied with; and he added that if he did take that step and retire among the Indians and French, he would not go empty handed, but would in that Case get into his Hands, all the Goods he could both from Traders and others, by right or wrong,

1 Joseph Hopkins, of Maryland, had formerly served with the 18th regiment, and later was captain of an independent corps, but a short time before the date of this letter had joined the French, being a colonel in St. Domingo. A letter from him to Rogers, with whom he had always been intimate, is given in *N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, vii., p. 993, under date of April 9, 1766. Lord Hillsborough, then English secretary of state, refers in a letter of March 12, 1768 (*Ibid.*, viii., p. 36), to “the wicked and infamous behaviour of Rogers and his correspondence with Hopkins.” The intrigue, if successful, would have placed Mackinaw, the gate of the Northwest trade, into French hands. — Ed.

31 he cared not how; and he said that he had already made Preparations for such a step, by appointing people to meet him at a place called Louis Constant, near a River that falls into the Missisipi.

When Potter refused to engage with Rogers in this Design, the latter flew into a violent Passion, and swore that he would never pay him a Farthing of what he owed him, and said that he supposed since he would not join with him in his Design he would go and reveal it, but that if he did he would certainly kill him. Potter answered him that he had always served him faithfully, and wished to do so still, and had no Inclination to reveal anything that might turn to his Prejudice; but as he seemed to be so firmly resolved to take such a dangerous Step, that might be the cause of a new Indian War, or other dreadful Misfortune to the Interests of Great Britain, he apprehended himself to be bound in conscience and by the Duty which he owed his Country to give intelligence of it to proper Persons; in order to prevent its taking Place. Rogers upon this took up an Indian Spear that was in the Room in which the Conversation passed, and pointed it at Potter, threatening him

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with instant Death, if he did not swear to keep this Matter secret. Potter seeing his Life in Danger, cried out for help, but was not heard; upon which he fell down upon his knees and begged Rogers to spare his Life 'til the next Day, when they might confer together upon the Subject again, and, he hoped with mutual Satisfaction. This made Rogers grow somewhat cooler, he then pressed Potter to give him up a Note of Hand for Fifty five Pounds, twelve Shillings Sterling, which he had given him in New York, and likewise to give him Discharges for Several Sums of Money, which he owed Potter, and which he knew Potter had set down in his Books of Accounts. But Potter did not comply with these Demands. Soon after Rogers opened the Door and went down one of the Steps that were before it; and Potter thinking this a good Opportunity to get out of his Company endeavored to push by him, and get out of the House; But Rogers would not let him go without Blows; He struck him and kicked him saying, "Damm you, you 32 shan't come out yet; I'll Cook you, I'll Warrant you," besides other very foul Language. However by this Means Potter at last got out of the House, and went to his own Lodging. The People were all exceedingly surprised at this Behaviour of Rogers, as they had imagined that Potter had been a great Friend and Favorite of Rogers, as in Truth he had been 'till this extraordinary Conversation, which he did not at that Time communicate to any Body. The next day Potter went out to take a walk; and during this short absence, Rogers took from Potter's Lodging a Silver hilted sword worth six Guineas, a Fowling Piece, twenty Pounds weight of Beaver Skins, a Hat, and other wearing apparel. Potter upon his Return from his Walk met Rogers on the Parade, who asked him what he thought of Things then, Potter answered that he continued in the same way of thinking as the Day before; which put Rogers into a violent Passion. and made him Swear that he would not let Potter go out of the Garrison. Potter went home and did not yet tell what had passed. The third Day Rogers again asked Potter what his thoughts were upon the Matters he had proposed to him, who again refused to join with him in his Designs; Whereupon Rogers knocked him down, and bid the Guard take care of him; But they, seeing that Rogers was in a violent Passion when he gave this order, did not obey it, and Potter was not confined, but went home strait to his Lodging. Then several Persons who had been Witnesses of the ill

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Treatment he had received from Rogers and were both surprised and shocked at it, went to see him; and amongst the rest Mr. Roberts the Commissary, who advised him to apply to Captain Spicemaker,¹ the Commanding officer of the Troops, for Protection. Potter did so and received the Captains Protection, and received no further Injury from Rogers after that Time. On the twenty ninth of August last he left Michilimakinac, and

¹ Captain-lieutenant-Frederick Christopher Spiesmacher, of the 60th (Royal American)regiment of foot. The battalion to which he was attached was sent to the West Indies in 1722, and it is thought that he died there in 1782.— Ed.

33 some Days, or the Day before, he acquainted Mr. Roberts the Commissary, with Roger's private conversation above mentioned, which had been the occasion of their Quarrel. Before he left Michilimakinac, Rogers sent him word that, if he would not hurt him, he would pay him his Debt. Potter supposes that by the Expression *if he would not hurt him* Rogers must have meant, *if he would not discover the aforesaid private conversation* . Rogers never returned him the Sword, and hat, and Beaver Skins, and other things that were taken out of his Room. Potter says that Rogers is in Debt to almost all the Traders about Michilimakinac, to the amount of a hundred thousand French Livres, all which Debts have been contracted since he has been at Michilimakinac. He says that Rogers told him in the conversation aforesaid that he had sent eleven Canoes loaded with Goods to Lake Superior and Lake ... [name illegible] and other Places of Indian Trade, Potter says that, Rogers seems to him to be cultivating an interest with the Indians in order to retreat to them, when he shall execute his Purpose of leaving the British Services; and he suspects that one Stoote and one Atherton design to go off with him.

Sworn before William Hey Esqr¹ His Majesty's Chief Justice of the Province of Quebec at Montreal in the said Province this 29th Day of September 1767.

¹ William Hey (or Hay), chief justice of Quebec, went to Canada with Governor Carleton in 1766, and served until about 1779.— Ed.

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(Signed) Wm Hey C. I.

(signed) Nathl. Potter

Indorsed:— “Copy of a Deposition taken before Chief Justice Hey at Montreal the 28th Sepr 1767. In Lieut Govr Carleton's (No 14) of the 9th Octr 1767.”

CARLETON TO RICHARD SUTTON.

Quebec 9 th October 1767.

Sir ,—The Bearer of this is Mr. Potter, upon whose Subject, by another Conveyance, I write very fully to Lord Shelburne,² before whom he is desirous of laying some Matters ³ 2 English secretary of state.— Ed.

34 of Consequence, which occasion his Voyage to Britain, and for which Purpose I am to request your introducing him to his Lordship.

I am Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant Guy Carleton .

Richard Sutton Esqr

Indorsed:—“ Quebec 9th October 1767. Lieut Govr Carleton—R; S. R;. 14th Novr—By Mr. Potter.”

CAPTAIN SPIESMACHER TO —.

Michilimackinac the 30 th of Jany 1768—

Sir ,—The 6th Decr last I reed an Express from the Commr in Chieff who appointed me as commr. to this post, & orders to confine Major Rogers for High Treason, which was doen accordingly, by assistance & Deligancy of Lt Christie¹ who we put under grat obligation

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to him an for his wachfulness & care, the only oficer I had for duty. In his confinement we took much notice of his behavior, which was very suspitios.

1 Lieutenant John Christie, 60th (Royal American) regiment of foot.— Ed.

The 30th of Jany last happily for us & this Post, cum in the Evening a Canadien born here & spoak the Indian languach, boren with natural Sence, told me he had a Secret of great importance to communicate to me and that it was now time to discover it, But wanted my Honour in Pledge, as he thought his Life was in danger by the Soldiers and others, if he was known to be the discoverer, I granted his request. He then informed me that Majr. Rogers had sent him several message by his formerly servant or orderly man David follerton [Fullerton] 60 Regmt to doe what he could to save his Life and the Soldier told him, that the Majr. was in the Frens [French] intrest, and would make his fortune. The Informer heard him with patiance, and told him he would see the Majr. soon, but wanted to know how many Friends he had in general to assis'd him, with his design in geting his Liberty, and what they were, David answer'd he was his Friend, and all the soldiers in general 35 except 3 or 4. Lt. Christie's and one old German, 60 Regmt, and one man of the artillerie Finsh [Finch].

The next night he went to the Major, who told him that his Designs was first to beg of him, to get the Savages in his Interest to decoy me & Lt. Christie out the fort, Ens'n Johnston¹ diverting his time at the mission, a farm, was easy to git at, after this being throw to the mercy of the Savages, the rest the Major would undertaking, being assur'd the Sergeants would then Deliver him the Keys (:meaning when he had a number of Savages:) to awe the Soldiers, he then was determined to make a fortune before he joyn'd the French on Missisipie, and not to go bear handet, for as soon the Fort was his, he should have Powder and Cannon plenty to Take Detroit, and after Illinois, that his life or Death was in his hand, for without his help he would be shot or Hanged. He then told him, he did not now, but he would assis'd him, they then parted for that night tellen him he hoped to see him soon, the Informer Further told him that the Major had beg'd him to go hunting, by my

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leave, in order to better cloth his design, to get the Savages (namen several Lee Fourchi² le Grant Sable dc Mongamike, of Different nation, who he was certain was his Friends:) to make sure of me & Lt Christie, and also Frobisiere marcht from Montreal, then everything would be well, then the Frensh had You Battallion waiting for him at present Comdt by Col Hopkin, who had often wrot for him, I was siland, and the Informer believed I was in doubt, it is up [upon] my concence the truth word for word what I have declared, and to give you plain proof, come to morrow night at a place where you can hear and not be seen, where I will call David Secretly to be convinced of the truth, then I look'd on him to be satisfie' and told me Further you may give the Secret to Lt Christie who I look upon a vere good man & consult with him in an affair of sutch consequence to give his atvice.

1 Ensign Robert Johnson, 60th (Royal American) regiment of foot.— Ed.

2 La Fourche (The Fork), an Ottawa chief more commonly called King Nissowagnet. See *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., p. 100, for his relationship to the Langlades and Charles Gautier de Verville.— Ed.

36

I had made a scrole [manuscript] of the above showed it to Lt Christie who was Estonished of sutch Villainas designs, we then consulted the best of our knoledge, to discover the whole in form, I then asked Lt Christie if he thought proper to take Mr. Frobisiere with me, who understeer Frensh (while the Conspiration was carry'd on in that Languetch;) he answered to better, and a gentleman we can trust upon, accordingly we went in the Evening Secretly, the Informer put us in a sort of store house in a place where we could not be seen, David did arrive, who we could see & hear their conversation, about the time as above mentioned from David, after this assurd of the truth we went to Lt Christie, atvised that David not should be confined, and still to do duty, we then conjunctly consulted ferder to get more certainty, Mr. Frobisiere then proposed a sceam, that the Informer should one more gee to the Major to assure him his Friendship, and at the same time to now what the Major was to do for him, for so great an undertaking, he

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did as deseer'd and the same Evening he Return'd the 4 night of Febry. to our Joy he brought to me a promissing not, which he saw wrot and Signd, by Majr. Rogers now in my possession.

The words are wrot as follows

At Michilimakinac 4 th Febry 1768

I promiss to pay M. Josph Ans¹ annaly an hundert Pound for Five years successfelly to carry me to Mr. Hopkins.

1 Louis Joseph Ainsée, Indian interpreter at Michilimackinac.— Ed.

as witness my Hand Robt: Rogers

The whole being this settled and found that all was true and without doubt and discovert every things, and Different Oaths taken signd and Seald, Lt Christie undertook tho very unwell to keep a strick guard till Revaillee Beating, David being on guard, should be confined, at that time in my Room, until we should ... [MS. illegible] the disposition of the two Companies of the ... [MS. illegible] and the man of the Artillerie, who we immagine 37 to be in the interest of the Treaters [traders], David was privatly brought to my Room, Burst into tears Beging his life, cursing Rogers and wife, and confes'd his Treacherous designs as above, Rogers and David are now in Irons and centrys over them and the guard in the majors Houss Res'd [restored] till the Vessel arriv'd to take them from this.

I am Sir Your obedt humble servt T. Spiesmacher Capt. in 60th Regt

P.S. Major Rogers had last Spring, wrot for Mr. Ans, then at St. Joseph, to come to this, and be his interpreter, but had declar'd since, that his real design was to have sent him to [the] Missisipie to invite Capt. Hopkins, with a few men, and on his arrival, should Deliver this Fort into his hands.

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T. Sp.

Indorsed:—"Letter of Intelligence from Michillimakinac, relative to Major Rogers, delivered to Lord Hillsborough by Mr. Guinand, a Merchant of London.—A 24 Read by the King."

— TO LIEUT. COL. BRUCE.1

1 Hon. Thomas Bruce, 60th (Royal American) regiment of foot.— Ed.

New York August 10 th 1773.

Sir ,—

* * * * *

I am very sorry to see that Mr. Baxter has met with so bad Success in his Attempts of the Mines, I shall gladly hear your opinion of the causes of his Want [of] Success, whither there are any mines about Lake Superior & in short all such observations, of either Natural or Political which at any Time you may get from the Indians and others.

I am Sir &ca.

To Lieut: Colonel Bruce or officer commanding the Troops at Halifax .

38

— TO LORD DARTMOUTH.1

1 First lord of trade. The letter has no signature.— Ed.

New York 31 August 1773

My Lord ,—

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* * * * *

From Michillimakinac, where everything was quiet the first of July last, I am informed that the persons who had undertaken to work some of the Copper mines about Lake Superior are now on the point of relinquishing the enterprise and that some of them have already abandoned it.

I have the honor to be &c.

Indorsed:—"Right Honble Earl of Dartmouth 31 August, 1773."

— TO CAPTAIN VATTAS.²

² Captain John Vattas (or Vatass), senior captain of the 10th regiment of foot. This letter has no signature.— Ed.

New York 26 th December 1773.

Sir ,—I had the pleasure of receiving your Letter of the 8th of September on the 13th Ultimo, containing the disagreeable account of the bad success which the Company who had undertaken the Copper Works, has met with, I am afraid that their want of Success is not so much owing to the mismanagement of their Agent as to want of foresight in providing the necessities requisite for such an undertaking, the want of which at that immense distance must have overturned their Scheme at once—I am very glad to see by your Account, that the Trade of Furrs has been so successful tho' the jealousy of the Traders would represent in another Light.

As your Regiment is to be sent to England next Summer, and that the relief will take place as Early in the Season as the Navigation of the Lakes will permit, you will be pleased to prepare all the informations for your successor in the Command which your knowledge of the Country & of Indian Affairs will enable you to do.

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I am with great regard Sir &c.

To Captain Vattas loth Regiment of officers commanding at Michillimackinac .

39

— TO MAJOR BASSETT.1

1 Major Henry Bassett (or Bossett), 10th regiment of foot. This letter is without signature.— Ed.

New York April 30 th 1774.

Sir ,—Having Judged it Expedient for His Majesty's Service to send Mr. John Hay² to the Illinois, on a particular Service, you will be pleased to give him all the assistance in your Power towards promoting the success of his undertaking.

2 Ensign John Hay, 4th (King's Own) regiment of foot, commissary at Detroit.— Ed.

I herewith send you two Proclamations one in English and the other in French which with the extract of the King's Proclamation relative thereto you will order to be made as publick as the nature of them will admit, causing copies of them to be affixed in the most publick places and taking proper measures to convince the Indians of His Majesty's Gracious attention to their Interest and their future Peace.

You will observe to oppose any encroachments on purchases contrary to the meaning & intent of the Royal Proclamation, by such measures as will to you appear most consistent.

I am with great regard Sir &ca.

To Major Bassett 10th Regiment or Officer Commanding at Detroit .

— TO LIEUT. COL. CALDWELL.3

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3 Lieutenant Colonel John Caldwell, 8th (The King's) regiment of foot. This letter has no signature.— Ed.

Off Point au Fer 4 6 th Octr, 1776.

4 On Lake Champlain.— Ed.

Sir ,—Mr. Langlade⁵ being on his return to Michillimakinac to pass by your post I recommended him to your notice as [a] man I have had reason to be very much satisfied
⁵ Charles Michel de Langlade, of Green Bay, in the employ of the English as Indian agent. *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, vii., pp. 123–187, 405–408; viii., pp. 209–223. For other references to him in the Canadian archives, consult index to *Id.*, xi.— Ed.

40 with and who from his influence amongst the Indians of that district may be of very much use to His Majesty's affairs—I have authorised him to bring down 200 of them early next spring.

I am just now upon the point of proceeding upon the Lake with our armed Vessels and boats in order to clear that place of the Rebels who are upon it with a considerable naval force. I fear the season is too far advanced for anything further this year. I should be glad you gave directions that all which can be spared of the 8th Regiment & all the Indians of your neighborhood be prepared to take the field early in the spring—

I beg to have all the Intelligence you procure from time to time—

I am & ca.

To Lieut. Col. Caldwell .

— TO CAPTAIN DE PEYSTER.¹

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1 Captain (familiarily known as Major) Arent Schuyler de Peyster, 8th (The King's) regiment of foot, commandant at Michillimackinac from 1774 to 1779. See biographical sketch, *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., p. 97.— Ed.

Off Point Au Fer 6 th October 1776.

Sir ,—I think it necessary to acquaint you that I have been very much satisfied with the conduct of Mr. Langlade but quite the contrary with that of Ants [Ainssé] & Gauthier² who have shown nothing but deceit & have been attentive only to their own concerns, and personal interest. I have commissioned Langlade to bring me down 200 chosen Indians in the Spring, in which I beg you to give him every assistance in your power and to dispatch him as early as possible—I send you two medals and a Gorget for chiefs whom Mr. Langlade will inform you of. I am just going with the armed Vessels and boats to endeavour to clear the Lake of the Rebels who are upon it with a considerable

2 Charles Gautier de Verville, of Green Bay. He was a nephew of Charles Michel de Langlade, and, like him, an Indian agent for the British in the country west of Lake Michigan. See sketch, *Ibid.*, p. 97.— Ed.

41 naval force; but I do not expect to be able to accomplish more this season.

I am &c

To Captain Depeyster .

DE PEYSTER TO —.

Michilimackinac 12 th April 1777.

Sir ,—I have the pleasure to inform your Excellency that the season affords me an early opportunity of sending of provisions to meet Monsr Langlad's Indians at La. baye [Green Bay].

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I have seen many Indians during the course of the winter who are all well inclined; the only fear I have now is the not being able to prevent the whole country from going down. Such as are prevented will take it ill, they must however be diverted from it.

(signed) Ar. S. De Peyster .

Indorsed:—" Extract of a Letter from A. S. De Peyster dated Michilimakinac 12th April 1777. In Sr. G. Carlton's Ire of 3rd July 1777."

TRADE IN THE UPPER COUNTRY.1

1 An English military memorandum on the state of the fur trade in the Northwest, without date, but apparently written in the spring of 1777.— Ed.

Memorandums relative to the Trade in the Upper Country as far as it is carried on by the Grand River² either to Michellimackinac, or La Grande Portage, collected from the opinions of different Persons concerned in that Trade and well acquainted with the nature of it.

2 Ottawa River.— Ed.

It is a Trade carried on at great risk, Laber and expense, as well to the person, as to the Property, of those who are immediately interested in it and therefore, it cannot be expected, that the Traders in General, are men of substance few of them are able to purchase, with Ready Money, such goods as they want for their Trade and therefore are indebted, to the Merchants of Montreal, from year to year 42 till such time as a Return is made in the Furrs &c. the Merchants of Montreal import their Goods from Britain and many of them with respect to Capital are in the same predicament as the Traders to whom they furnish goods, on credit, so that the consequences of that Trade being interrupted tho for a very short time will be considerably felt not only by the Merchants of Montreal but those of London: It is the Staple Trade of the Province, arid one year with another produces to

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Great Britain Returns, to the amount of £200,000 in furs of which one half at least from Michillimackinac, and its dependencies, the other half from Niagara, Detroit, the Lower and inhabited parts of the Province. This Trade would require, one year with another 100 canoes which are navigated by eight men and which considering the Cargo of English Goods and the charges incident to the Transportation from Europe and the Transportation to the Indian Country, may be valued at £700, Currency, each Independent of the men employed, in the Transportation many families are supported and maintained by the necessary expenses and charges of making the goods into cloathing &c for the savages. Of the 100 Canoes above mentioned one third would be wanted, for the North West or La Grande Portage, the rest are necessary for the Lakes Huron Michigan and La Baye [Green Bay]. Of the number of Canoes allowed for the last year that proportion was not observed; for the Traders to the North West had 70 Canoes whilst those to the Baye &c had only 20, by which means the latter who were mostly new Subjects could not bring down the Returns of their goods whilst those to the North West who are mostly old subjects had as many canoes as they had occasion for, both to carry up goods, and bring down their papers, and it has been alleged, that they even sent four canoes, laden with Goods to Michillimackinac, in order to be distributed about the Lake Huron, Michigan and La Baye, This no doubt was owing to the greater degree of danger, which was apprehended, of the Goods destined for la Baye, falling into the hands, of the Rebels provided they should succeed in their designs upon Detroit or of being carried by ill intentioned persons to the Rebels upon the Illinois, then of those which were sent to La Grande Portage. To the supposed danger of the goods sent to La Bay, falling into the hands of the Rebels provided they should this summer make themselves Masters [of] Niagara and Detroit, it is objected that the distance, being many hundred Leagues from Michillimackinac, it would be impossible for the Rebels to send parties into the different wintering places from whence the goods are sold to the Indians; and that the Traders would even have time to collect the return of Furrs, and secure them from the Rebels, with regard to the danger of evil minded persons carrying the goods to the Rebels, first with regard to Michilemackinac, it is allowed to be practicable, as Traders have been known some time to venture on the

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Route, it is by Lake Michigan, at the Southermost part of it, thense up a River,¹ leading near to the Illinois River, into which the goods may be conveyed by a Carrying place, of several Leagues, and by proceeding down that River, they may fall into the Messisippi, near a French Settlement² the whole distance being near 700 Leagues with regard to goods being carried from La Baye by evil minded persons, to the enemy the difficulty is very great, as the distance is near 200 Leagues, more, and the danger of being stopped and plundered by the Indians very great as the savages of La Baye and those of the Illinois Country are constantly at War, with one another; with regard to the North West or La Grande Portage the difficulty is so great as almost to amount to an impossibility the distance is above a thousand Leagues and from the West End of Lake Superior nothing bus small Indian Canoes can be carried into the Mississippi near it sources and whoever attempts to pass that way — must run the risk of perishing by famine, or the depridation of numerous Tribes of fierce Indians. If to these difficulties is added the consideration that the Rebels have no money to give in payment to danger of Goods being to them will be lessened, and it is wise to be observed that the Governor may refuse Passes

1 Chicago river.— Ed.

2 Kaskaskia.— Ed.

44 to suspected persons, and that every person is by Law obliged to find two Securities, renders in the Lower Posts of the Province that he or they shall in every respect conform to the Rules and Regulations of his Pass, in which, (except for La grande Portage or North West) there should be a clause inserted obliging the Person, or Persons, first to go to Michillemakinac, and put themselves under the Direction of the Lt. Governor or Commanding officer who may be instructed to permit the Traders to go into the interior parts of the Country, provided nothing has happened which, if know[n] to the Governor, would have prevented him from granting Passes to Lake Huron, Michigan or La Baye, as it is said that Indian Corn has been ordered to be brought up at Detroit (for the support of our Indian Allies whose Settlements had been destroyed last fall by the Rebels), it may perhaps be necessary that the Canoes for La Grande Portage should sett off this Year

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earlier than usual, in order to supply with provisions the People, who have wintered at the Place, and as the Traders to La Baye &c have their Furr's, which are bulky to bring down if it; can be done with safety the sooner they have Passes granted so much the better likewise.

DE PEYSTER TO CARLETON.

Michillimakinack 13 th of June 1777.

Sir ,—Since the departure of Mr. Langlade¹ the Pottawatamies arriv'd here from St. Joseph's fifteen in number who are all either chiefs or chiefs sons totally ignorant of Bark Canoes. I am therefore oblig'd to send them in a Return Canoe, I hire for that purpose as Mr Langlade assured me you was very desirous of seeing some of that nation their behaviour here has been Remarkably good they came under the conduct of Monsr Le Chevallier² a man spoken very ill of at Detroit. I however perceive by the

1 See *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, vii., pp. 405 *et seq.*, for other letters written by Do Peyster regarding Langlade's expedition to Green Bay in 1777.— Ed.

2 Louis Chevalier, a trader at St. Joseph's. *Id.*, xi., p. 116, *note* 1.— Ed.

45 great attachment those Indians have to him that he had better be caressed at present than otherwise—Chariot Lassossissay the Iroquois came also with them and conducts them to Montreal. This Indian speaks good french and is a good subject Mr Langlade sent him with Therry [Thierry] to St Josephs to raise the Pottawatamies where he fell sick, but nevertheless was indifatigable in bringing over those Indians at another time those gentry would require a good Let down for past offenses and some very recent ones but at Present no nation requires more tender treatment their coming in I hope is a step towards future good behaviour.

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Gautier is this instant arriving with the Sawks and Raynards I must therefore hurry them them off before they see each other as a meeting will be rather inconvenient at Present and may greatly protract this Voyage.

Gautier it seems has been employ'd by Mr Langlade to bring those Indians in here I can count in the Canoes to the number of thirty two.

I am &c &c &c (signed) A.S. DE PEYSTER .

P.S. I have enclosed the examination of the Minominies goods to Mr Langlade by which there appears to have been a most Scandalous Imbarrelment.

Indorsed:—"Copy of a Letter from Major Arrant Schuyler Depeyster dated Michillimakinac 13th of June 1777. In Sir Guy Carletons (No 28) of 9th July 1777. (4)"

LIEUT. GOV. HAMILTON¹ TO CARLETON.

¹ For sketch of Col. Henry Hamilton, British Lieutenant Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs at Detroit, and explanation of this massing of Indians at the Northwestern posts, see *Ibid.*, p. 98, *note* 3.— Ed.

Detroit 15 th June 1777.

I have the honor to inform your Excellency, that the Ottawas, Chippawas, Pouteowattamis, Hurons, Miamis, are come to this place and are to meet in Council on Tuesday next. There are also some Shawanese, Delawares, Quashtanows, but a few in Number.

46

I shall keep them together as long as possible in expectation of your Excellency's orders. The' the Majority should return home I make no doubt of being able to assemble a

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Thousand Warriors in three weeks, should your Excellency have occasion for their services.

I have the honor to be most respectfully Your Excellency's most devoted & most humble servant.

(signed) Henry Hamilton .

Indorsed:—"Copy of a Letter from Henry Hamilton dated Detroit 15 th June 1777—In Sir Guy Carleton's (No. 31) of 15th July 1777 (1)."

CARLETON TO DE PEYSTER.

Head Quarters 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 & discretion with which you have conducted yourself in the command of your pest that your leaving it in the present conjuncture would be attended with considerable inconvenience to the King's service, it is my intention that you continue at Michillimakinac, notwithstanding your appointment to the majority of your regiment, till further orders; of which Lt. Col. Bolton¹ is made acquainted.

¹ Lieut. Col. Mason Bolton, of the 8th regiment of foot, with headquarters at Niagara.— Ed.

I am &c.

To Major Depeyster Michillimakinac

— **TO DE PEYSTER.**

Montreal The 6 th of Octobr 1777

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Sir ,—Application having been made to the Commander in Chief by the Merchants who carry on the trade at the Grand Portage for an officer and twelve men to be sent there for the time they take to transact their business there 47 every year and for the purpose of preserving order and regularity among the people who resort to that place, I am directed to acquaint you that it is His Excellency's pleasure that an officer & 12 men be furnished from your post, on these occasions yearly & that it be a standing order untill countermanded.

I am Sir &c.

To Major Depeyster Michilimackinac .

CARLETON TO LIEUT. COL. BOLTON.

Whereas His Majesty's Service has required the Establishment of a Naval Armament upon the Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron & Michigan,¹ and I have accordingly by Commission under my hand & seal appointed officers to serve in the several Vessels employed therein, for the reward and encouragement of whom I have thought proper to fix their pay at the rates as follows.

¹ For papers relating to naval affairs on the upper lakes, see *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., pp. 185 *et seq.*— Ed.

Vizt. £. s. d. To the officer appointed by Commission to command on the Lakes aforesaid *pr diem* in Sterling money 0. 15. 0 To Masters & commanders in the Naval Armament 0. 10. 0 To Lieutenants appointed by Commission under the Commander in Chief to Command Vessels 0. 6. 0 To First Lieutenants 0. 4. 6 To Second Lieutenants 0. 3. 6

And I do direct that you pay to the officers Serving in the Naval Armament aforesaid according to their Ranks their pay as it shall accrue from the dates of their several Commissions, at the rates aforesaid drawing upon me 48 from time to time for the Amount, as in eases of other incidental disbursements at the post under your command.

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Given under my hand at Quebec this 20th day of Octobre 1777 (Sign'd) Guy Carleton

Lieut. Colonel Bolton of His Majesty's 8th Regt. of Foot, or officer Commanding at Niagara and Dependencies .

CAPTAIN FOY1 TO SECRETARY KNOX.

1 Captain Edward Foy, who had been private secretary to Lord Dunmore, governor of Virginia (1772–1775). Foy was considered by the Virginians as governor *de facto*, and much disliked. He was, apparently, on Carleton's staff at the time of this letter, and visiting in London. *N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, viii., p. 323, *note 2.*— Ed.

Woodstock Street 10 th March 1778.

The Posts upon the Upper Lakes which hitherto for want of hands to employ the Garrison having been so small little could be done to, require the greatest attention, it being upon these that the importance of the possession of Canada depends principally, in regard of its commerce, and with respect to the cheek which that Province must prove upon the other Colonies both at present and hereafter. The Post at Oswegatchie has been extremely ill-chosen and in a ruinous state, it requires either being removed to an Island near it where the French had a work or to Deer Island at the entrance to the Ontario Lake. Niagara and Detroit require fortifying with care and judgement, being the most important from their situation on the back [of] the Colonies. Michilimackinac should be put into a very respectable state, were it not [only] for the impression necessary to make on the numerous Tribes of distant Indians resorting there. The commerce of this back country has extended lately to a very great degree; the Merchants last year found it necessary to apply for & they obtained of General Carlton a Detachment of soldiers to be sent during the summer months to the Grand Portage on the Lake Superior where 49 the Trade has been carried on to a great amount. It is probable that the fur Traders, confined for the future, in all circumstances to the channel of Canada, well digested Regulations, & the Posts well

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attended to & put entirely under the control of the Governor General of Canada, resources may be found from it, that may amply repay the expenses attending all the arrangements necessary to make for the Canada Department.

I am Sir your most obedient humble servant E. Foy .

Knox Esqr. under Secretary of State .

LIEUTENANT PHILLIPS¹ TO LIEUTENANT CLOWES.²

1 Charles Frederick Phillips, lieutenant in the 70th regiment of foot.— Ed.

2 George Clowes, lieutenant in the 8th (or King's) regiment of foot.— Ed.

La Prairie Du Chien 27 th April 1780.

General Wabasha³ was well contented with his commission &c believe me his Warflours are nothing inferior to regular Troops in regard to Discipline in their own way, it being their first & principle care to examine their arms in the morning, by drawing & drying their Powder and always fresh loaded at Sun Sett —

3 *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., p. 122, *note*.— Ed.

To Lieut Clowes Commanding the Detachment of the King's (or 8th) Regiment Michilimackinac .

DE PEYSTER TO GENERAL HALDIMAND.

Detroit the 8 th June 1780.

Sir ,—I have just received Your Excellency's letter of the 12th February, by which you desire to be more fully informed what occasioned the enormous Expenses, attending the

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Indian department at Michilimackinac, the last year. To which I hope the following remarks will be satisfactory. 4

3 For biographical sketch of Sir Frederick Haldimand, who succeeded Carteton as governor of Canada (1778–1784), see *Ibid.*, p. 115, note 1:— Ed.

50

Partly by reconciling the Chippewas of the bay de Noque with the Menomenies, & the Chippewas of the plains with the Scioux, in order to make those nations useful in case of being wanted. A large present sent to the Scioux in order to make them keep the Sacks & Reynards in awe.

By Lieut Governor Hamilton's Expedition, in which I was required to give him ev'ry assistance in my power. To which purpose I sent to raise the Indians of the Grand River and the Dog Plains,¹ which could not be done without taking up a quantity of Goods and provisions in the Indian country, with every accumulated Expence thereon, as will appear by Messrs Langlade & Gautier's accounts & Vouchers sent to Mr. Dunn's office.²

1 Prairie du Chien.— Ed.

2 The Hon. Thomas Dunn. paymaster for the military and civil departments of Canada.— Ed.

By Clothing & Arming a body of Canadians, and by raising the Indians a second time, to march & oppose the Rebels who threatened Detroit. My design was to harrass Mr Clark³ on his way up the Wabash, and to put a body at St. Joseph's, sufficient to oppose Linctot,⁴ with his cavalry from the Pey.³ Few of the Indians proceed further than St. Joseph's, but I am nevertheless persuaded that the noise of their assembling after Mr. Hamilton's defeat, so contrary to rebel expectations, did in a great measure oblige them to retire and, to lay aside their Expedition, especially as they were also informed that the Scioux were to fall upon the Habitations of the Creoles, if they marched with Clark against Detroit.

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3 Gen. George Rogers Clark. For biographical sketch and account of his expeditions against the Illinois and Wabash districts, see *Wis. Hist. Cell.*, xi., p. 113. *note.*— Ed.

4 Godefrey Linctot. *Ibid.*, p. 105, *note 2.*— Ed.

The families of all the Indians were by agreement taken care of & clothed. Canoes were not only furnished for the Warriors, but also for their families to return home with; those they came in, by the time they reached the Post, were rendered quite unfit for future use.
Numbers of strange

4 Peoria *Ibid.*, p. 187. *note 2.*— Ed.

51 Indians resorted to Michilimackinac that year, whose friendship it was my instructions to cultivate, The Expence of which gave me great uneasiness of mind, & the extraordinary trouble I took proved equally grievous to the body, having almost exhausted myself with fatigue, in order to see the Indians pleased, by delivering them every article in my presence, whereby I saved Government some thousands, which would otherwise have been expended without giving satisfaction in the critical juncture affairs then stood.

I am sorry to say Sir; that the Indians are now come to such a pitch, as to make their own demands, and that the refusal of a trifle, if not done with caution, may turn a whole war party. i lately had an instance of this kind, by being obliged to refuse a keg of rum, we had not to give.

I have the honour to be with great respect Sir, your Excellency's most humbl & obedt servant

At. S. De Peyster

To His Excellency the commr in Chief .

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Indorsed:—"A No 2 1780 Prom Major De: Peyster Detroit 8th June. Reed 28th Copy in Book marked B No 3 Page 5."

JOSEPH CALVÉ¹ TO HALDIMAND.

¹ Calvé was a trader, and in British employ as a military agent among the Sacs and Foxes. *Ibid.*, p. 108, *note* 2.— Ed.

Michilimackinac The 23 rd August 1780

To M. Frederick Haldimand Governor General & Commander in Chief of North America &c. &c. &c.

Sir ,—Pardon the liberty I take in addressing the present to you, which is only caused by the reception which the Sacqs, Renards, & the Aimaiois [Menomonees] as well as myself had from Lieut Governor Sinclair,² Commander of Michilimakinac, on the return of our campaign, which surprised me extremely as I had no reason to expect it. After all the pains and trouble I have taken to maintain the nations

² Patrick Sinclair, lieutenant governor of Mackinaw. For biographical sketch, see *Ibid.*, p. 141, *note*.— Ed.

52 in the true intentions of Government & to manage, in all things the interest of His Majesty, I cannot then penetrate what are the causes of this sad return unless I may judge that it is from false reports made by the Commandants & Interpreters of this district. In consequence I have thought it my duty to prove that my conduct has been irreproachable, I have applied many times to Lieut. Govr Sinclair, for this purpose, without having had the advantage of being listened to, it causes me much grief to be thus treated without reason, wherefore I pray you to be convinced of my assurance that no one can be more respectful than he who has the honor to be

Sir Your very humble & faithful subject J. Calvé .

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To His Excellency Frederick Haldimand Governor General & Commander in chief of North America &c. at Quebec

Indorsed:—" 1780 From M. Calvé Indian Interpreter Michilimakinac 23d August Recd 23rd September."

LIEUT. GOV. SINCLAIR'S REASONS.

There appears to me an improbability that the Indians bordering on the Mississippi can be entirely prevented from visiting this Post annually, notwithstanding they are forbid to come, and were they disgusted by too severe treatment, or bad reception, after their arrival, the Traders in this country would suffer, *particularly those*, who have had merit in attaching them to Government and engaging their services when they were wanted—and if Traders amongst them who can be depended upon, are totally restrained from making any presents in their wintering grounds, a communication of Intelligence with the Post and between the Traders would be interrupted entirely, & there would be no means of employing an Indian until he came first to the Post and thereby the opportunity of his service lost.

Indorsed:—" Gov. Sinclairs reasons against discouraging totally the Mississippi Indians from coming to the Post, or against refusing them Presents."

53

DE PEYSTER TO HALDIMAD.

Detroit 1 st Octr 1780.

Sir,—I am honoured with your letter of the 10th August, wherein you think the Presents are too generally distributed, and that discrimination would diminish the Expence. I can assure your Excellency that no goods are given to people who are altogether inactive, and that I have ever made a distinction according to the several merits, in the donation of the

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Goods, intended for the promotion of His Majesty's service, & I think I may safely affirm that in the treatment of Indians, I have hitherto stretched the cord to its utmost extent, whosoever shall hereafter give it another pull, must inevitably break the chain of alliance so necessary to subsist betwixt us & the Indians.

The Expences therefore do not arise from any Injudicious management, (having lately sent away 200 Pottawatamies empty handed till they perform a service pointed out to them) But from the number of Indians resorting to this Post since my arrival nearly double to what were ever heretofore. The Western Indians follow me, notwithstanding my endeavours to prevent them and I have brought over several wavering Nations.

Believe me, Sir! That, notwithstanding the enormous Indian account from the great attention I pay to the service taking nothing from report, which I may possibly in person attend to—I have & shall yearly save the Crown, great sums, even to the prejudice of my health which I shall ever do cheerfully whilst your Excellency honours me with your confidence.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect Sir Your Excellency's most huml & obedt servt At S. De Peyster

His Excellency Gen Haldimand

Indorsed:—" No 4 Entrd F. H. 1780. From Major De Peyster Commands at Detroit of the 1st October Reed 95th Copy in Book marked B No 3 Peg 10."

54

MEMORIAL OF JOHN KAY AND DAVID M'CRAE.¹

¹ See *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., p. 151, for Sinclair's letter to Haldimand, reporting the same incident; also note, with further particulars. There appears to be some discrepancy in dates.— Ed.

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To His Excellency Frederick Haldimand Esqr Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of Quebec &c. &c. &c—

The Memorial of John Kay & David McCrae Merchants in Montreal — Humbly Sheweth—

That your memorialists have for several years past carried on a pretty Extensive Trade in this Province in sending goods from Montreal to the Upper Country to Traffick with the Indians, particularly in the Spring 1778, they sent up to Michilimackinac Eight Canoe load of Goods—

Upon the arrival of your Memorialists at Michilimackinac, Major Depeyster having no Information of the Rebels, being at the Illenois granted them a Pass for that Country for Five of the aforesaid Canoes, which Canoes were under the couduct & in the charge of a certain Charles Gratiot, unfortunately for your Memorialists the said Gratiot upon his arrival found the Rebels in possession of that Country, the said Gratiot has ever since remained amongst the Rebels to the great detriment of your Memorialists, Trading upon the aforesaid Property, without ever having made any remittance to your Memorialists excepting about seven or eight hundred Pounds, Halifax Currency value in Furs, the Spring following—

In April last the aforesaid Gratiot sent off from the Illenois under a Spanish Pass a large Boat loaded with Furs, Provisions &c. (the produce of the aforesaid Goods) a list of the Loading is here enclosed with orders to the Conductor of said Boat to proceed up the Mississippi, as far as a Place called La Prairie du Chiens, and there to dispose of the Cargo if possible and return immediately to the Illinois—

The Boat in coming up the Mississippi was seized by Lieut Alexr Kay of the Indian Department, Brother of the aforesaid John Kay your Memorialist, and sent in to Michilimc.

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Part of the Peltry, all the Provisions, Tobacco, Rum, &c. has been made use of at La Prairie du Chien by orders of Lt. Govt. Sinclair by a Party of Canadians & Indians at that time on their way to attack the Illinois—the remainder is at present at Michilimackinac & the Boat Employed in the service of Government.

Your Memorialists have already made application to Lieut Governor Sinclair concerning the aforesaid Boat & Loading — He has referr'd them to your Excellency (which is the reason your Memorialists take the liberty of troubling you at present) with a promise at some time of giving Your Excellency a particular account of that affair which they flatter themselves he has done.

As your memorialists are conscious of having on their part always behaved themselves as good & faithful subjects of His Majesty, & convinced that your Excellency will always show that Clemency & Indulgence lies in your power to those that behave so, they flatter themselves that the circumstance of their affairs with said Gratiot, by whom they are losers of at least Four Thousand Pounds, Halifax Currency, will draw your Excellency's attention.

Your Memorialists therefore humbly beseech Your Excellency to take their circumstances of their Case into Your Consideration & that your Excellency would be pleased to order the Goods seized and made use of as aforesaid to be paid for, & those that remain at Michilimackinac to be delivered up to your Memorialists, being in reality their property, procured by said Gratiot in Lieu of the goods intrusted to his Care, as aforesaid, & your Memorialists will as in Duty bound ever pray.

David McCrae , for self & John Kay .

Quebec 13 th Novr, 1780.

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SINCLAIR TO HALDIMAND.

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Sir,—

* * * * *

By the return of Mr. Sarayen of the Indian Department, I am glad to find that the Traders towards the Mississippi have been much protected by the Indians in their neighbourhood, who prevented a like accident to that of St. Joseph. All the nations to the Westward appear well disposed, and propose coming to this Post to know from me, why they are hindered from going to war to get rid of the People who menaced them & their Traders. I shall make them no answer until I receive a return of this Express.

* * * * *

I am, Sir, Your most obedient and most humble Servant Patt Sinclair Lieut Governor & Commandant.

Michilimackinac 12 th May 1781.

HALDIMAND TO SINCLAIR.

Quebec the 31 st May 1781.

Sir,—Captain Brehm¹ has communicated to me your Letter of the 12(th) Instant.

¹ Capt. Diedrick Brehm. aid-de-camp to Haldimand. *Wis. Hist. Coll.* xi., p. 136, *note* 1.—Ed.

* * * * *

The Potawatamies and all other Indians at Trading Posts, may be informed that if they ever again permit the Enemy to Pillage the Traders they may rest assured that a Trader will never be permitted to return to them their being on their Hunt, or any other evasive

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argument will not be any more admitted as an excuse. If Traders are sent amongst them at their Request, it is their duty to protect them, and they must never leave their Villages defenceless, if they keep out proper Scouts & support that Intercourse with each other which the Times require they can never 57 be surprised — much credit should be given to the Indians towards the Mississippi, who have so faithfully protected their Traders — The good Disposition of the Indians to the Westward affords me much pleasure, I by no means wish to prevent their going to War against their and our Enemies who almost surround them & I recommend that it may be done immediately for their Villages, to enable them to which, reasonable supplies will be allowed them — but their resorting always to Michilimackinac to fit out, must consume Time & swell the expense already so enormous.

* * * * *

I am Sir your most obedient most humble Servant (signed) Fred Haldimand .

To Lieut. Gov'r Sinclair .

SECRETARY MATTHEWS1 TO SINCLAIR.

1 Capt. Robert Matthews, Haldimand's secretary.— Ed.

Quebec 1 st June 1781.

Sir ,—Mr. Joseph Parrant who was taken Prisoner at La Prairie du chien having laid before His Excellency a Memorial requesting Permission to return to Detroit and Michilimackinac, and being well Recommended for this Indulgence, by Mr. Champion, I am directed to acquaint you that His Excellency's [wish is for] him to accompany Mr. Champion to Michilimackinac and [he] leaves it to you to let Him proceed to Detroit or not, as you shall think fit.

* * * * *

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I am Sir, &c &c (signed) R. Mathews

Lieut Governor Sinclair

GAUTIER TO LIEUTENANT FORD.2

2 Lieut. Samuel Ford, 47th regiment of foot.— Ed.

Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that I have already entered in the King's store five hundred sacks of wheat 58 filling in part my engagement with Lieutenant Governor Sinclair for this article. I expect every day the rest of my Milwauky wheat to entirely fill my contract by which I am obliged to furnish all in the course of the month of July next.

I am Sir, with respect Cha. Gauttier .

Lieut. Ford .

HALDIMAND TO SINCLAIR.

Quebec .1

1 Probably written May 10, 1782. This seems to be the letter referred to, *post*, p. 62, in letter of Sept. 20, 1782, by Hope and others to Robertson.— Ed.

Sir,—The season for the departure of the trading Canoes bound up the Grand River being arrived, & the Traders become very solicitous for their Passes, I am obliged to gratify their wishes, although I should have been glad to have heard from the Indian Countries, before they set out, which the Backwardness of the Season has prevented, I have however taken the necessary precaution of laying on them the strictest Injunctions of submitting implicitly to such restrictions as from circumstances unknown here, and the Good of His Majesty's Service, you may see fit to lay them under, and I must earnestly desire that you will pay the utmost attention to the respective destinies of these Traders, who I cannot help

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thinking under a pretext of exercising the *Furr Trade* abuse the Indulgences granted them, for that purpose, and do many things injurious to the King's Interest, & likewise to the Reputation of Trade, I am not so well informed of the complicated circumstances attending that remote Trade as I could wish, or as it is necessary I should be, I enclose to you a few hints & memorandums upon that Subject & I request you will, with your Leisure correct them & suggest to me all such as your long experience and knowledge of that Country, and your late observations may have furnished you with that I may be the better enabled to give that Encouragement, I wish to so essential a Branch of Trade, but at the same time carefully 59 avoid giving Latitudes which in the present situation of affairs might tend to prejudice what we most wish to preserve. Altho' it is practicable to convey supplies to the Enemy, by way of Lake Superior into the Mississippi, the vast labour & difficulties that must attend such an undertaking, makes it rather unlikely that it should be attempted, I am therefore desirous to give every proper encouragement to the North West Trade. Their views however will be better perceived by you, than here, and the officer you send to St. Mary's (should you find that necessary) will be still a further Cheque upon their Conduct.

I send you likewise a Copy of a Memorial from the French Traders in your environs, who, from my apprehension of supplies falling into the Enemies hands, were not permitted to carry up their usual proportion of Goods last year. From reports of affairs upon the Mississippi, these apprehensions are not lessened, but so heavily do the Traders complain of the Losses they have sustained, that to content them [have given Passes for 100 Canoes upon the conditions I have already mentioned to you, and that whenever you see the least prospect of danger, you will not suffer a single article to be sent. Altho' the observations upon the Trade to Detroit do not concern the Trade of your Quarter, Yet, their being in some measure connected has induced me to let them accompany the others—I wish you to be particular upon the subject of persons employed in the Service of Government, being permitted to Trade, as things are now situated, I fear the evil cannot be removed, men who make Hundreds yearly, would [not] relish being reduced to their Ten or Five shillings per day—this evinces the impropriety of suffering upon any

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pretense whatever, the smallest relation of good order, these people's service having been improperly rewarded by indulging them with carrying up small quantities of goods, from Time to Time, until they at last become professed Traders.

I am Sir, &c (signed) Fred Haldimand

Lieut. Governor Sinclair

60

NUMBER OF INDIANS RESORTING TO MICHILLIMAKINAC.

Persons.

Ottawas of L'Arbor Roche four hundred men with their families, amounting to 1000

Do. of the Grand River & Banks of Lake Michigan with their Families 500 men 1200

Chipawas—Proprietors of this Island 100

For the most part Chiefs and Heads of Families who received presents from them

Do. from St. Mary's 50

Do. from Lake Huron Mississagi River La Cloche &c 150

Do. from Lake Superior 500

Follevoines¹

1 Menomonees.— Ed.

from La Bay and Lake Huron 250

Indians of the Mississippi, Winipigoes 150

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Saics 250

Renards (foxes or osogamis) 200

Aswoés 50

Scioeux Indians, Chiefly the Heads of Tribes who received Presents from their respective Villages. 100

Potewatamies 20

Persons 4020

In all amounting to about four Thousand and Twenty Persons

(Signed) John Coates , Clerk to the Indian Dept.

Michilmakinac 10 th Sept. 1782.

PAY ROLL IN THE INDIAN DEPARTMENT.

In the Indian Department at this Post were paid:

David Mitchell as Surgeon (formerly in receipt of pay at this post for his care of the sick of that Department—

present with the Ottawas sent to Detroit

1780. 15th Feb Alexander Kay

1st Mch. James Phillips.

as Lieuts at 8s N. York Curry per day each. present with the Ottawas sent to Detroit.

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30th July Antoine Ignace

30th July Charles Langtan fils2

2 Apparently Charles de Langlade, Jr. *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, vii., p. 182.— Ed.

61

Interpreters @ 8s N. Y. Curry per day each.

1781. June. Blondeau to the Forces with them

10th Octr. J. B. Cadot (at St. Marys)1

1 Jean Baptiste Cadott. *Id.*, xi., p. 170, *note 2.*— Ed.

1st July. Roque (to the Scioux & formerly paid at the Post in the Scioux country.

1st May Thos. Stone as Ferry Keeper at old Michilimackinac @ 8s N. York Curry per day,
for two Ferry Men @ 4s do. do. each

1st May. John Waters as Storekeeper @ 8s do. present

1779. 8th Sept. Augustin Feltcan

1781. 1st April. Vasseur

as Blacksmiths @ 8s do. each present

1781. 1st May Louis Varin as Cooper @ 8s per do. present

1780. 1st July John Coates as Commissary @ 8s per do. present as Clerk @ 4s do. per
do, present

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(signed) John Coates , Clerk to Indian Dept.

Michilimackinac 16 th September 1782

LIEUT. COL. HOPE² AND OTHERS TO CAPTAIN ROBERTSON.³

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

³ Daniel Robertson, captain in the 84th foot, and commandant of Michillimackinac and dependencies (1782–1787). *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., p. 164, *note* 1.— Ed.

Michilimackinac Sept. 20 th 1782.

Sir ,—From the very heavy expences that have been incurred on account of Government at this Post, into which His Excellency the Commander in Chief has thought proper to direct us along with yourself to make Enquiry, and from the great abuses and neglect in different shapes that have appeared to us all upon this Inquiry—the following Regulations for your future conduct in the Command of the Post will in our opinion be absolutely necessary in order to reduce & correct in some measure these expenses, and abuses, and you are hereby directed therefore, agreeable to the power delegated to us by His Excellency's Instructions to that Purpose, to conform accordingly to the Regulations, as far as circumstances will possibly admit, until you receive orders to the contrary from Head Quarters—

62

First—That you should strictly observe the General orders of the 22nd of June 1781 not to make purchases and be particular in transmitting the Returns required therein, to neither of which does attention appear to have been paid, by your Predecessors, without any sufficient reasons to the contrary having been assigned or existing.

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Secondly—That as well as to all other instructions and orders that have been given, You should particularly attend to the Spirit of His Excellency's Letter to Lieut. Governor Sinclair of the 10th of May 1782¹

¹ See *ante*, p. 58.— Ed.

to answer one of the essential purposes in which it may be found upon Trial, a good Measure to post Trusty persons on some particular passes, leading to this Place, with a small quantity of Rum (when the state of that article in Store will enable you to furnish it) in order to give to the distant Indians who may be coming to the Post when not wanted, to engage them to return, to their Villages without advancing farther. the pass at St. Mary's seems a very proper one to try this experiment at—

Thirdly—That you should be very particular in establishing some method and arrangement at the Post, both relative to the mode of issuing Provisions & to the quantity issued for a Ration in the Indian Department so as always to be able to calculate the supplies and consumption that will be necessary, as well as to have a check upon those persons who have charge of the Stores—in no part of which does there appear to have been any method—during the command of your Predecessor,—which has occasioned great abuses and been the cause of a considerable part of the expense incurred unnecessarily.

Fourthly—That as a sort of combination has evidently been framed by all the Traders at this Post to avail themselves of the necessity of Government, in keeping up the Price of Indian Corn, at a most exorbitant rate, to defeat this in future, till a more reasonable & generous disposition appears among the Traders, as calculation has been made of the quantity at present wanted for the Public service, and the contractor for supplying this article should be immediately sent out to the neighbouring Villages of the Ottawa's at L'Arbre Croche to make his purchases at the first hands from the Indians themselves, as far as to the amount, of Two Thousand Bags before any other persons under the protection of this Post, be permitted to go out, to make theirs a measure which with any others of the same nature that may occur to yourself to adopt on a more extensive

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knowledge of these practices among the Traders, will we have no doubt meet with the approbation & support of the Commander in Chief & which therefore we strongly recommend to you—

Fifthly ,—that as great stress is laid by His Excellency in his Instructions upon the great increase of appointments in the Indian Department here, which has been found by us all on this Inquiry, not only to have been considerably augmented since Governor Sinclairs command of the Post but also to be without any apparent necessity in so much as that except Blondeau, who is at present with the Ottigamies¹

¹ Cf. *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., p. 164.— Ed.

—Cadet [Cadott at St. Mary's. Rocque²

² *Ibid.*, p. 111, *note 2.*— Ed.

with the Scioux Indians & Langlade, le fils as an assistant to the established Interpreter, Gautier, no other in the line of officers or interpreters seems to be at all requisite at this Post for the present—and these to be paid as heretofore, at Eight Shillings p. diem each, N. York Currency, and that only a storekeeper at twelve shillings p. diem and one Blacksmith at eight Shillings N. York Carry are necessary to be added to the above list, to which latter appointment your own nomination of the properest persons to be found upon the principles expressed in the Generals Instructions is thought right You, are therefore hereby directed to strike off from this period all others of whatever denomination, that may be paid on the list of the Indian Department, until the Commander in Chief's further pleasure shall be signified to you upon this subject.

Sixthly ,—that as an Engineer will be left to carry on the Works, You are hereby directed to discontinue all the appointments as they stand at present in that Line, and 64 only to pay such in future, as he will point out, at the usual rates, and that you shall think absolutely necessary to carry on the service—that all those useless officers under the denomination of Naval Department, be likewise immediately abolished, and that a stop be put to working

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at the Vessel on the stocks, & the people now employed on it be dismissed, as soon as the present materials collected are used, or that the Bulk of it is finished—

Seventhly,—that the small vessel which has been taken into the hire of Government by your Predecessor at such an Enormous rate, and contrary to the Generals regulation on this subject, should be & is, hereby directed to be paid off at the expiration of another month & be sent away to Detroit, the continuance of her in the Service for that period being allowed only on account of the assistance agree'd to be given to the Contractor for collecting his Corn to the Post on this occasion, and as she may also be of use in the exertion so necessary at present towards compleating the works, on the proposed temporary plan—

From an adherence to these Regulations, which we think highly necessary just now for the Service, and from the Zeal, with which we are convinced that you will carry them into execution, as well as every other measure that shall appear to you, condusive to that end, the most sanguine hopes may be entertained of a very material reduction so justly complained of at this Post.

We are Sir, with great regard your most obedient humble Servants.

(signed) Henry Hope Lt Colonel

(signed) John Johnson 1

1 Sir John Johnson, British Indian Superintendent.— Ed.

(signed) James Stanley Goddard .

(A true Copy)

Captain Robertson 84th Regiment Commander at Michilimackinac

65

ROBERTSON TO MATTHEWS.

Michilimackinac 1 st Novr. 1782.

Sir ,—You will be pleased to lay the annexed Letter from Mr. McBeath¹ to me before His Excellency the Commander in Chief, who, I hope will comply with the request as it may be the means of lowering the exhorbitant prices of Goods at this Post.

1 George McBeath, a trader. See *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., index, for other letters bearing on his expedition to Prairie du Chien.— Ed.

Mr. McBeath will set out early next Spring for the Mississippi, which I have already mentioned to Col. Hope, the Intention, and I have great hopes he will succeed in a great degree, of keeping those Indians from coming here, which must be a considerable saving to Government.

He wishes much to have Mr. James Grant here early, in order to do his Business while absent.

I am Sir your most obedient and most humble Servant,

Dan'l Robertson Capt. 84th Reg't.

Capt. Mathews .

ROBERTSON TO BREHM.

Michilimackinac 20 th April 1783.

Dear Sir ,—This Climate is preferable to any part of Canada, I have been at, and of course very healthy—

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* * * * *

Trade is not carried on here to my Ideas, nor to the General Satisfaction of the Traders, the Posts are not half supplied with Goods and the principall given to Individuals only, which cause *discontent* & room to ask among the Indians as likewise an excuse to come so often to this place.

Now, Sir, I mean to oblige every Wintering Trader to give Security for his good behaviour, his properly supplying the Indians & his keeping to the place allotted him by his Pass. This I think will keep the Indian to his Hunting, for they are all fond of seeing a quantity of Goods. Liquor is their Ruin. This is, as yet, an expensive place and as I 5 66 am determined by every means possible to decrease the Government Expenses, I hope His Excellency will take my own situation into His consideration—

At a proper time you will be pleased to lay these hints before His Excellency for His consideration and my future conduct how to act.

I mean to send the first Vessel from Detroit to St. Joseph's, & the Grand River, if not instructed to the contrary, for a Load of Corn, as the extra price on it is owing to the Transporting hither in Boats by the Traders.

There is a Mr. Moubourne Bouché,¹ a Canadian in the Mississippi with a Gang of Moroders, whom annoy the Traders very much, by exacting Goods &c. He is Commissioned by the Spaniards—

¹ Cf. *Ibid.*, p. 169, where the name is spelt Bouchet.— Ed.

There were a number of Engaged Canadians prepared to desert from hence, of which I had Intelligence & prevented, I have taken some precautions for the future, as those Rascals mean to Join Mr. Bouché.

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I am like told that I may expect some Gentry from the Spanish Quarter this summer, who were here last year. I believe they should be sent down the Country for His Excellency's Examination, if I am not in time otherwise instructed.

I am always with much regard Dear Cap'n

Your most obedt. & most humble Servt. Danl. Robertson

Captain Brehm, A. D. C.

Indorsed:—"From Capt. Robertson commanding at Michilimackinac of the 20th April."

ROBERTSON TO CLAUS.

Michilimackinac 7 th Sept. 1783.

Dear Sir ,—I have to acknowledge of your's of the 14th of July by Mr. Calvé who I have sent off with some difficulty and great expense, having no wintering men or Canoes sufficient and indeed every want, however he goes away tolerable well pleased.

67

The Chepeways of Lake Superior are at war with the Foxes and Nadowessies,¹ I have sent messages to the former on that head, by Mr. Cadot and Matchiquie² a Chipeway Chief of note, near this Post.

¹ Nadousioux, or Sioux.— Ed.

² Matchekewis, captor of Michilimackinac in 1763. See sketch of him in *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, vii., pp. 188–194.— Ed.

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As the evacuation must be soon I have not sent any demand of Goods, if any is sent they shall be distributed to every advantage—I have had no Rum this season, and as you know it is their God, I hope Sir John will supply the Post with that article—

* * * * *

I have the Honour to be &c. &c. &c. Danl. Robertson

Colonel Clause

ROBERTSON TO MATTHEWS.

Michilimackinac 7 th Sept 1783

Sir ,—I received your favour of the 10th July, a few days after Mr. Calvés arrival here.

I am much satisfied of being honoured with His Excellency the Commander in Chief's approbation of my conduct at this Post, and will use my best endeavors to effect His Excellency's ardent wishes in every respect, I have very little doubt of succeeding while I direct every Line—

* * * * *

I have struck off Messrs Blondeau and Shutye as Interpreters the 1st of July last as their Service did not appear to me any ways necessary—

I am on the best footing with the Indians, and I believe they are well disposed to Government, a little internall disturbance among themselves which I have endeavored to prevent by sending messages to them, those are the Chipeways of Lake Superior against the Nadowassies & Foxes—

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Any goods sent here shall be given them and as Rum is their God, it is very necessary, tho' I have had only a little sent by Colonel Campbell by the Grand River this year.

68

Contrary to custom I have got all the neighbouring Indians to go out a Wintering, which will much ease the Post.

I have got of Mr. Calvé with much Difficulty & expense he had no wintering men or Canoes sufficient, I was even obliged to buy one to carry down his men—

Mr. McBeath had the Chief's of those very nations in Council at La Prairie de Chiens¹ & satisfied them so much that only two of their great men came in here, well pleased this last Spring, what is done by the Inspectors directions must be right.

¹ For report of this council, see *Id.*, xi., p. 166.— Ed.

* * * * *

I have the Honor to be with every Regard, Your most obedient and most humble Servant,
Danl. Robertson .

Captain Mathews .

ROBERTSON TO MATTHEWS.

Michilimackinac 16 th Sept. 1783.

Sir ,—I have only to acquaint you for His Excellency's the Commander-in Chief's information that being informed of a Menominie's being taken Prisoner by the Chipeways of Lake Superior, I have taken the opportunity of a Mr. Blondish [Blondeau] a Trader, well known among them, to send word to them of the Peace &c., and to give back the Prisoner, and as I had nothing of consequence to give to speak upon in the *Indian Manner* I gave

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him a Canoe with a little Provisions & Tobacco, this man goes towards the upper parts of the Mississippi between that and the said Lake, Mr. Cadot and Matchiquies are gone to Point Chagomagon² on the same Lake, to him I only gave a Canoe with a little Provision & Tobacco, as my Store could not afford more—

2 Chequamagon.— Ed.

I have the Honor to be with great regard, Sir, Your most obedt. & most humble Servant
Danl. Robertson .

Captain Mathews .

69

ROBERTSON TO CLAUS.

Makinac 17 th Sept. 1783.

Dear Colonel ,—I have only time to acquaint you, that in consequence of a Menominies being taken away by the Chipaways of Lake Superior, I have given a Parole to a Mr. Blondish a Trader well known among them to lay down the Hatchet &c., I had little to give him, he is going between the Upper part of Mississippi and Lake Superior this Mr. Blondish is well known to Mr. Goddard.—Please offer my respects to Sir John &c.

I have the honor to be with regard, Dear Sir Your most obedt & hum'l Servt Danl.
Robertson .

Col. Clause .

ROBERTSON TO HALDIMAND.

Michilimakinac 26 th June 1784.

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Sir ,—Since my last letter of the 10th Instant, I had the Honor of both your Excellency's of the 29th of March by Detroit—

I had a letter from Captain McKee¹ from Detroit acquainting me that there was to be one Interpreter at this Post, there are now here Gautier paid below young Langlade here, old Mr. Langlade at La Bay paid below, & Cadot at the Sault St. Mary's paid here—

¹ Alexander McKee, British military agent among the Indians. See sketch, *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., p. 180, *note*.— Ed.

The Service at present require their being employed untill we are properly established elsewhere, Cadot must be very usefull in case of taking Post from this, being well acquainted with the Proprietors of Lands intended to be taken possession of—

Indians are quiet and I am on my guard as I believe there was some intention against us, but they would not bring things to be general, and on my representations to 70 them of them of the absurdity of such a Conduct they seem at present well satisfied—

If I could be appointed Indian Agent with propriety I flatter myself the Service would not suffer by it, as I am equally acquainted with their customs in the field & otherwise as any [who] could get that Employment—

I have the Honor to be with Every Respect—

Your Excellency's most obedt and most humble Servant Danl. Robertson Capt. Commt ..

His Excellency General Haldimand .

ROBERTSON TO HALDIMAND.

Michilimackinac , 10 th July 1784.

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Sir ,—

* * * * *

I have the Honor to acquaint Your Excellency that not one Indian is come here from the Mississippi this year, owing to my having sent them Paroles to that purpose last Fall. There have been several Bands from Lake Superior, La Cloche, Missisagay and Madjadash, which I was very sorry for, as I had nothing for them, having received no Presents but a Trifle in Spring, 1780, since my coming here.

As there is some appearance of being near neighbours to those People, who are numerous, and for fear of some future discontent, I was induced to borrow some Goods and Rum, at a very great Trouble, owing to the scarcity of them, and sent them off well pleased.

Your Excellency may be assured that this was not through any disregard to my Instructions, but a real opinion of the necessity of it.

I have the Honor to be, With the greatest Respect, Sir, Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble Servant Danl. Robertson .

His Excell'y Genl. Haldimand .

71

LIEUT. GOV. HAY TO HAMILTON.

Detroit , July 16 th , 1785.

Sir ,—At the request of the greatest part of the people in Trade at this place I have the Honor to transmit the enclosed petition and representation, and in Justice to them cannot help assuring you, that I think their present situation alarming, and that if more vessels are not employ'd by Government or permission given for them to transport their property in

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Craft of their own, the trade of this place will suffer very materially, and probably cause the fall of some of the first houses concern'd in supplying the Merchandize for this place; if not totally prevent Great Britain from reaping the benefits heretofore arising from the sale of a great quantity of her Manufactures—It is my humble opinion also that if the Merchandize which is now on the way to this place, and which may be commissioned hereafter, can be forwarded early enough to supply the trade of the Adjacent Country, as well as many traders in the Mississippi (who can not barter their furs to so great advantage to any as to our traders) the returns will encrease instead of diminishing, of which I have already had the Honor to write you more circumstantially—

A Memorial to Colonel Hope is likewise gone down requesting the temporary relief of the Gage being ordered to be fitted up; but I am apprehensive if it should be granted the season will be too far advanced for them to reap any material advantage by it—

Many families have arrived here from the Colonies since I had the honor of writing to you concerning them, and many more are on the way, as they can not subsist long on what they have brought with them and as there are no vacant Crown Lands to settle them on they will suffer exceedingly, and hitherto I am not authorized to do anything for them—

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient most humble servant (Signed) John Hay .

The Honble Lt Govr Hamilton —

Indorsed:—"No. 2 Letter from Lieut Govt. Hay received 17th Augt. 1785. Quebec H Hamilton In Lieut Govr Hamilton's of 17th Augst. 1785."

72

JAMES M'GILL TO HAMILTON.

Montreal 1 st August, 1785.

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Dear Sir ,—In my last respects I partly anticipated yours of the 29th relative to the probability of the trade to the port of Detroit & its dependencies falling soon into the hands of the Americans were private Vessels permitted on the lakes at present, anything further which I may observe will be almost a repetition or perhaps setting the matter in a clearer point of view.

You will be good enough to remark that the Upper Country Trade in general, as now carried on from this place, is extended as far South as the mouth of the Ohio, to the Westward as far as the Rivers falling from that side of the Mississippi, will carry Canoes, including from the River of ... [MS. illegible] in Latitude 33 degrees S to the Sources of the Mississippi & to the Northwest as far as lake Arabaskda [Athabasca] including the whole north side of Lake Huron and Superior, the value of the whole I esteem at £180,000 currency for the sake of statement and I believe I am not £20,000 on either side of the reality—£100,000 Value I think is brought from the Country now within the American line as fix'd by the late treaty of Peace; the other £80,000 I consider as being within our own Line—If this Statement is nearly Just & I am satisfied to risk my reputation upon it as a Merchant. the question will be, whither the Americans are likely to take away any part of our trade when they shall have got possession of the posts & vessels on the Lakes, or whither we are not more likely by having posts on the same Lakes and vessels to interfere with them.

For my own part I am clearly of opinion that it must be a very long time before they can even winter on the smallest part of our trade, for the little that is to be had in the tract of Country lying between Lakes Ontario, Erie & Huron as South Boundaries & the Ottawa river, lake Nipissing and its discharge into Lake Huron as Northern Boundaries, can only be obtained by traders going up the different Rivers which water that tract of Country, there 73 passing the Winter and trading with the Indians—and this can only be done in Birch Canoes, which will require them a long time to become accustomed to, exclusive of the Legal impediment of trading in a Country to which they are Aliens.

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The same reasons are applicable to the trade on the North Shores of Huron & Superior & to the North West Trade, in my opinion for some contest that the Grand Portage is within the American line, but to us it does not appear very certain, or if it were, it is of no great moment with regard to the N. W. Trade; for a New road has been discovered from the Lake of ... [MS. illegible] or Nipigan which runs to the N of Wood, Lakes & falls into the discharge of that Lake ... [MS. illegible] (which is commonly known by the name of the River) at the distance of fifty Leagues from its N. W. termination—It was gone over last Summer and found to be more practicable than the road from the Grand Portage now in use—

These circumstances being considered, what are the reasons that could induce the traders from this country to dispose of their fine furr's which are got within our Lines? Will the Americans pay a higher price for them than can be obtained in London! No. and were the desirous of tempting with a higher offer—No man in his senses would trust to them, and surely they cannot carry up money to buy them, besides it is well known that were these fine furr's to fall into their hands in any quantity they must send them to England for a Market as amongst themselves the consumption is very trifling—We may therefore infer that there is little probability of the Americans rivaling us soon in the tract which legally belongs to the Province were they even allowed a free Competition—

It remains to consider how far we may interfere with the trade within their line & by what means, should the Americans under pain of confiscation prohibit all British Subjects from trading in the Indian Country within their Line, I make no doubt that the greatest part of the traders who are now at Detroit will become American Subjects, because they will thereby keep in their hands the trade they at present pursue, for I am of the opinion that the Americans by Establishing a very few posts on the South of Lake Erie might; hinder smuggling in any great degree, but at the same time if we can afford Goods at Detroit cheaper than they can & are enabled to give better prices for furr's or Peltries. The traders on their side will fall on means to do business with us even at Detroit, notwithstanding

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any regulations they may make to the contrary—That both these things may take place I am pretty confident, for we can without doubt transport Goods to the Upper posts cheaper than they can, provided we were allowed equal means of facility and by the same reasoning we can bring down Peltries at less expence—Such being the case we are more likely to be of Injury to their part of the trade than they are to ours, more especially if it is considered that even when they were British Subjects and had every facility and benefit in the whole of the Indian trade, there was not consumed amongst themselves above half of the Peltries the obtained, the other half going home to England as a permittance; indeed except Deer Skins which then formed their Chief Article with some Beaver and Racoons, every other article was sent to England, if therefore they are obliged to send them still in same manner, they can be on no better footing at Albany than we are here, but rather worse as their expences to bring the Peltries to that place will be greater than ours—

All then that Government has to do is to give every facility to the trade that is possible, and I do not see a more certain means of conveniency and certainty than by allowing the merchants to have small deck'd vessels of their own—with them they can ever be morally certain of having their Goods at Market in June and July and then Goods may be imported the same year from England, which will save them from leakage imbesslement and wait of their property besides Interest, of money which you know is a dreadful moth if ones allowed to get to any head.

That these Vessels should be under the proper regulations is highly requisite, but time must be allowed for digesting a proper system—the present is to busy a Season besides I would not wish to attempt it alone, and I would be also desirous ⁷⁵ of having a more perfect local knowledge of Lake Erie than I now have before I venture on such a task.

But whatever future regulations may be adopted, they do not relieve us from our present distress, the last Information from Niagara is so late as the 16 of last month at which time there were little if any thing short of 100 Battoe Loads of Goods to cross Lake Erie, besides from thirty to forty at Cataraquoi mostly intended in the same way—That

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a considerable part of these will be got over this season is highly probable, but unless measures are taken without any delay whatever to have them transported speedily, it is to be apprehended that they may, as last year arrive at Detroit too late to admitt of being sent into the more interior Country amongst the Indians, in which case fewer furs will be got, for you will remark that the Indians do not bring much of their Peltry to the Post—the Traders must go for it, they must pass the Winter amongst them and supply them occasionally with Clothing Ammunition &c, otherwise the hunt little and are not careful of their Peltry. The measures which in my opinion might be adopted without any great hindrance to the Service or any great infraction of orders would be, to order that the four vessels on Lake Erie (as soon as Michilimackinac is supplied) do each of them make two trips to Detroit with Merchant's Goods, but that the second trip is not to exceed the 15th October at latest for the time of loading at Fort Erie, after which time they can very easily make another, which I should think would be more than sufficient to carry provisions for one year for the Garrison, and at the same time as there are three or four small private vessels, that, they may for this Season be allowed to sail for benefit of their owners under Command or Inspection of a King's Officer, so as to prevent at all events any smuggling whilst we hold the Indians tract exclusively. If some such plan is not adopted I fear that bad Consequences will be the effects of the present System. The traders will get disperited and careless, they will even wish for a change of Government in hopes of being bettered tho' they certainly will be much worse; but such were 76 their Sufferings last Year with the untoward prospect for the present one, that I fear few Goods will be ordered for the ensuing or Houses of any Reputation here found to execute them until this defect is remedied. As this Letter is chiefly occasioned by the impediments to the Detroit trade, which I have endeavoured to show you may be removed without giving any encouragement, to the Americans therein. I have said nothing of the trade on the South side of Lake Huron, Superior or to the West of Michilimackinac because it is carried on in Canoes from hence, and therefore meets no obstruction, nor will it be an easy matter for the Americans to get any part of it, notwithstanding the Country is within their Line. In short I am decidedly of opinion that no part whatever of the Trade belonging to this Province by

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the treaty of Peace is likely to fall into the hands of the Americans but on the contrary that we may get a considerable part of theirs.

I am Dear Sir, Your affectionate and very Humble Servant, (signed) James McGill .

P. S.—I must not omit mentioning that the merit of discovering the new route to the N. W. belongs to the Messrs Benjamin & Jo's Frobisher who are the Directors of an extensive trade to that Country & had it explored in order to secure that trade to this Province in case it should be found that the Great carrying place falls within the American Limits.

Indorsed:—"In Lieut Govr Hamilton's of 12th August 1785. No 1."

MEMORIAL OF INDIAN TRADERS.

To Sir John Johnson Baronet Superintendant General of Indians in the province of Quebec &c., &c., &c .

The Memorial of the Merchants of Montreal concerned in the Indian Trade go Michilimackinac & its Dependencies—

77

Sheweth, That the Trade carried on under the protection and within the Dependencies of that post is of the utmost importance to this province, as it comprehends nearly three-fifths of the whole of the Upper Country Trade and is extended over a Tract of Country reaching from the Latitude of 39° S. on the Mississippi to the North and West of Hudson's Bay in the Latitude of 60° Degrees—

That the Indians who occupy this vast tract of Country are of fierce and Warlike dispositions and unfortunately for the Traders, they are at present engaged in a cruel war with one another, which not only prevents them from hunting but exposes the Traders

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to great danger of their lives or the loss of their property when met by the war parties, whether in the course of the voyage or when in their Winter Habitations.

That some attempts have been made to reconcile the jarring Nations, and at times the Traders when on the spot have so far succeeded as to keep them in Peace for a season; the good effects whereof were not less esteemed by the Indians than beneficial to the Traders as by that means the Indians remained unmolested on their respective wintering grounds which naturally produced a considerable degree of success & advantage to the Merchant, but lately the disputes of those Nations have arose to a height above the power of the Traders, assisted by the officer commanding at Michilimakinac to control or appease, in consequence whereof the Trade has suffered greatly and unless some remedy is applied in time there is reason to fear the loss of a considerable part of that valuable branch of Commerce, in particular the whole of that carried on upon the Mississippi from the Illinois to its source—

Your Memorialists pray such aid and relief in the premises as to you may seem meet, respectfully suggesting the expedient of proper persons being employed to bring about a peace which no doubt will require considerable presents, but at same time will be greatly facilitated by the name of Sir John Johnson; a name well known amongst the Indians, 78 much respected by them and always considered as the Harbinger of Peace to these Nations.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

Montreal 4 th April 1786.

Robert Ellice & Co

Charles Morrison

David McCrae

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Robert Cruickshanks

Fran Winter

Mrs. Mandeau

Chles. Chaboiley

Alexr. Henry

John Reeves

John McKindlay

James Finlay

F. Chaboiliez

Gregory & Maitland

Todd & McGill

Benj. & Jos. Frobisher

Richard Dobie

William Grant

Sutherland & Grant

John McGill

Simon McTavish

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Andrew Todd

William Kay

Joseph Howard

Grant & Griffin

Auldjo & Maitland

John Bapt. Durocher

G. Cotti

Pollard & Mason

MEMORANDA RELATIVE TO INDIAN TRADE.

No. 4. Memorandums for Sir John Johnson Baronet submitted to his consideration by the Committee of Merchants who had the honor of presenting to him a Memorial dated 4th April relative to the Indian Trade.

The Indian Nations who are at War with one another, to the great prejudice of the Trader are the Ottawas, the Chippeways, the Fallisavoines,¹ the Winipigoes or picants—The Osakies—the Outagamies or Foxes & the Scioux—

¹ Follesavoines (rice-eaters), or Menomonees.— Ed

To bring about a peace amongst these Indians, considerable presents will be necessary, and in order to judge of the necessary quantum, it may be proper to mention the number of men in each Nation with their situation in the Country and the means that may be adopted to effect that purpose.—

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The Ottawas consist of nearly—Men and are situated 79 along the south and east side of Lake Michigan, beginning at the distance of eight leagues from Michilimackinac, and extending nearly to the River St. Joseph, but being immediately under the eye of the Commandant of Michilimackinac from whom it is presumed they receive presents, no account will be made of them in speaking of those which will be thought necessary for the present purpose. It is proper however to observe, that they are a Nation much respected by all the others, therefore their friendship may be rendered serviceable in any transactions with the others.

The Chippeways 800 men .

A few of them are around Lake Huron & at Michilimackinac but by far the most numerous and warlike part (and to whom the present remark more particularly alludes) inhabit the south side of Lake Superior, from the Falls of St. Mary to the west end of that Great Lake with the Country adjacent and a very numerous tribe of them occupy the sources of the Mississippi with all the Country on the East side of that famous River, so low as the River of the Chipeways,¹ which falls into the Mississippi about the Latitude of 40° North. This tract cannot be surpassed or perhaps equalled by any in the Upper Country for the fine furs it produces, but owing to the vicinity of the Scioux and the constant war between these rival Nations, the Traders, do not procure from it one forth part of the furs, which it is capable of producing annually. The number of men fit to bear arms of this Nation from St. Mary's to the sources of the Mississippi and in the Country described cannot fall much under eight hundred.—

1 Chippewa River.— Ed.

Manominis or Follisavoines 150 men .

The prosecuting the Voyage from Michilimackinac to the Mississippi by the direct and short road of La Bay the Manominis are the first nation you meet with they are in two fixed and

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considerable Villages, one at the River Manomini, the other at La Bay, and there are some straggling 80 huts along the River Renard,¹ the whole number of men fit to bear Arms, may be near one hundred and fifty and at present they are at war with the Chipeways, they are esteemed excellent Huntsmen and are not less known for their Intrepidity in War.—

1 Fox River.— Ed.

Winipigoes or Picants 600 men .

This nation is the next to the Manominis, their first Village being only twelve leagues from La Bay, they are at present at War with the Chipeways, are Warlike and tolerable Hunters and from being on the road to the Mississippi are frequently troublesome to the Traders passing and repassing.

Osakies or Sacs 1,300 men .

A Nation which inhabited a few years ago the banks of River Wisconsin but owing to their apprehensions of the Chipiwas and being rather of a peaceable turn they left their Villages and went a considerable way down the Mississippi, where they continue to reside and mostly on the Spanish side, this Nation is at present at war with the Scioux of the plains and the Spaniards are using endeavours to attach them to their Interests, and even to bring them nearer to them, but the superiority of the Canadian Traders hath hitherto prevented it.—

Outagamies or Foxes 1,400 men .

This nation is nearly allied to the Sacs, speak almost the same language, inhabit the same country, are esteemed rather more troublesome hunt and trade as the Sacs and at present are at war with the Chipeways, who inhabit the Sources of the Wisconsin, and the other Rivers which fall into the east side of the Mississippi.

Scioux 3,000 men .

This Nation is numerous and extended over so great a tract of Country, that the Traders can neither give a just account of the one or description of the other, but they esteem, 81 that at various times they have seen not less than 3000 of different tribes. They occupy the plains on the west side of the Mississippi from the River Manaquanon to the Sources of almost the first of those Rivers and are esteemed War like and fierce but are not very good hunters owing to their Country being stocked with Buffaloe and the little intercourse they have with the Traders (of late however they are become more industrious, and the best Deerskins with a deal of Beaver and Otters are now obtained from them) in particular from those who inhabit the Country along the River St Pierre and the Upper Parts of the Mississippi about the Falls of St Anthony, that being a Country which rivals the eastern parts occupied by the Chipeways for the goodness and value of the furs which it produces, the country too is very extensive that when peace can be brought about, between these two fierce and rival nations, the Manominis, the Picants, the Sakies, and the Foxes go up into that country and make most prodigious Hunts; but whilst they continue at war no Indians nor Trader can shew themselves in that Country with safety. Having taken notice of the number of men in those nations who are at war and the situation of those Indians; we proceed to state such presents as in our opinion may be requisite to bring peace amongst them, and the consequent benefits that will be derived from it.

With respect to the presents we must request Sir John Johnson's reference to the annexed state; and as to the benefit's which may arise from a peace being established, there can be no doubt that the Traders present risque will be much lessened by it, and an ample field for commerce assured; two objects which merit consideration, besides the prevention of a cruel war between these fierce Tribes.

To carry this Scheme into execution is thought that several persons must be employed to carry the parcels and distribute the presents—for the Chipeways Messrs Cadot &

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Rheum [Reaume] are proper persons—For the Ottawas, the Fallisavoines, the Picants, the Sakies and Foxes, Mr. Ainse—but as a Scioux Interpreter will be requisite Messrs Rocque & Rainville will be very serviceable, and as many 6 82 of the Sacks & Foxes may winter in the lower parts of the Mississippi, it may be necessary to employ Mr. Gautier to reside with them. It may be proper to send as early as possible strings of Wampum to the different nations, desiring them to remain quiet and informing them at the same time, that their father Sir John Johnson, being desirous to put an end to their disputes, is to send them early in the fall Belts and presents for that purpose, mentioning also such places of Rendezvous as may be thought most proper—for instance—for the Chipewas, La pointe, Fond du Lac¹ and Lac du Sable, some Ottawas, the Follisavoines and picants to accompany Mr. Ainse to prairie du Chien, there to meet the Sakies and Foxes and if possible some Sioux to be present, from thence to proceed to the River St Pierre and there hold a grand Council, deliver the paroles. the Belts and the presents. In order to save expence to the person in carrying the presents from Michilimakinac into the interior Country—each of the Traders Canoes ought to carry three or four pieces, but it will [be] necessary that one Canoe at least carry nothing but presents into the Mississippi and another into Lake Superior—The presents should be delivered in the presence of the Traders to the Indians and particular mention should be made, that all Traders being children of the same Father they have all equally right and priviledge to traffick with their Brothers the Indians, it might be proper to retain part of the presents until Spring, particularly Rum, silver-work, some Coats, hats, shirts, Flags and Medals.

1 Fond du Lac of Lake Superior.— Ed.

Montreal 13 th April 1786

Richd Dobie

Sutherland & Grant

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Fran. Winter

Benj. & Jos. Frobisher

Simon McTavish

James McGill

William Grant

Chas. Chaboillez

David McOrae

Alexander Henry

G. Cotte

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SIR JOHN JOHNSON TO JOHN DEASE.1

1 Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs.— Ed.

Montreal 1 st October 1786.

Sir ,—From the great resort of Indians even from the most distant nations to the post of Michilimackinac from the extensive trade carried on from thence, and from its consequent importance; but particularly from the great expense that has hitherto attended the conducting the business of the Indian Department at that Post I have thought it necessary for the good of His Majesty's Service that you should repair to that station— and I do hereby require that you do without loss of time and in the most expeditious manner return to Niagara with the Indian Goods destined for the several posts, and from thence you are to proceed in the first vessel next Spring, the Season being now too far advanced,

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to Michilimackinac to take upon you the management of Indian affairs in that District, for your guidance in which Captain Byrne² the present Commissary of Indian affairs, whose appointment must cease on the 24th June 1787, will deliver over to you all such orders as he received and were found necessary for that purpose—

² Captain Michael Byrne.— Ed.

In consequence of an unfortunate War raging among some of the Western Nations, & at the request of the Merchants trading to that Country I have taken some steps to endeavor to reconcile them to each other by sending out a Messenger among them to desire that they would desist from all acts of hostility and assemble some of the Chiefs of each Nation next June at Michilimackinac, where I shall endeavour to meet them and to establish a lasting peace, to facilitate which I intend to take with me or order round by Detroit some of the Chiefs of the Six Nations—But should I from unforeseen accident or business be prevented from putting my intentions into execution, you will take such steps as you will find necessary to accomplish this desirable business, in the interim you will continue to act in conjunction ⁸⁴ with Lt. Col. Butler¹ for the good of His Majesty's Indian interest.

¹ John Butler, interpreter and partisan Indian leader, prominent in operations against Oswego, also with St. Leger's expedition, and employed in harassing the frontiers of Pennsylvania. See *N.Y. Colon. Docs.*, general index.— Ed

All officers commanding at the different posts are hereby requested to afford you every assistance necessary and in their power to expediate your Journey and the business you are sent upon.

I have the honor to be with great Regard and perfect esteem—Sir Your obedt huble
Servant (Signed) John Johnson .

John Dease Esqr. D. A. T. A .

AINSÉE'S EXPEDITION TO WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA.2

2 Unaddressed.— Ed

Sir ,mdash;According to the orders which I received last year from Captain Byrne I left this Post with a Canoe loaded with thirteen hales of goods to go and make peace among the Indian Nations,³

³ Ainsée had many enemies among the Montreal traders centering at Michilimackinac, who thought his influence with the Wisconsin Indians injurious to their interests. See *Mich. Pion. Coll.*, xi., pp. 499–501, for charges against him; p. 491 for report of council at Michilimackinac with Indians accompanying Ainsée thither; pp. 514–609 for proceedings of a court of inquiry held on the island, June 24, 1788, into the conduct of Ainsée and Dease; and pp. 610–620 for the report thereon, by Attorney General Alexander Gray and Solicitor-General J. Williams, sustaining the traders' charges against the two.— Ed

After a fortnight's passage I arrived at La Baye in the Village of the Folles Avoines, I began to speak to the nation & inform them of the object of my visit. I made them a small present of Rum & Goods & continued my route by the Fox River. Having come to Wisconsin Portage I assembled all the Puants⁴ to give them your speech,

⁴ Winnebagoes.— Ed

⁸⁵ this was the first time that I had showed the large Belt of which you had made me the bearer & after making them a present of Goods, rum & tobacco, I continued my route on the River Wisconsin & after a passage of five days I came, in the Mississippi to a village of the Foxes where I had much trouble in stopping a party of warriors, who were preparing to go to war against the Sauteux.¹ I made them all assemble & managed to stop this party, myself delivering the belt & war tomahawk which they were to use. They promised that for the future they would listen to your words, & also in acknowledgement I made them a present, the same as I had done to the others. Two days afterwards I prepared

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to leave, ascended the Mississippi & after fourteen days march I arrived at the entrance of the River St. Peter, where I found a large number of Sioux of all the different Villages who also prepared to go to war against the Sauteaux. It was there that the few goods given me by Captain Byrne received a bad attack for I could not dispense with making a present to each of the five different Villages, that is where I made use of your name and I venture to flatter myself that I employed it in the best manner for I succeeded in everything. At that time a party of Sioux arrived coming from the Sauteux with sixteen fresh scalps & three prisoners. The arrival of this party caused a little interruption to the peace which I proposed, seeing that the larger part of the women tore the still bloody & ragged scalps from hands of the warriors, with an unequalled ferocity & wanted also to throw themselves upon the warrior prisoners, crying: "Ah dog; Is it thou who has killed my father," & another made the same exclamation saying "Is it thou who hast killed my brother." In short the three poor prisoners witnessed this sad spectacle which was the cause of so much bad feeling. But fortunately for those living in this neighborhood the plan of having good soldiers, Who I can assure you are more respected than among the civilized nations, is in force. However they got possession of the prisoners,

1 Chippewas.— Ed

86 with trouble as they had to drag them from the hands of the women & preserved them from their rage. Although so sad a spectacle made a little confusion among us still I succeeded in quieting them by representing to them to what misery they would expose their Nation if they were obstinate & would not hear your speech. It was then one of the principal chiefs came & took me by the hand & wrapped a Beaver robe round me, saying "My Father rest until to-morrow & then we will tell you our way of thinking." The next day being all reassembled they sent to look for me by six of their soldiers, placed me on a beaver robe in the midst of their assembly, saying in very strong terms & informing me of their gratitude to their father Chevallier Johnson for wishing to bring about a peace amongst them & to unite their lands with those of their enemies.

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They then made me a present of 50 stalks of wild oats & delivered to me the Sauteux prisoners which they had taken, saying, "As a proof that we listen to your words, here are the prisoners which we took into our hands take them to our father Sir John Johnson." I arranged all those affairs as well as I could desire & brought them to make peace with the Sauteux.

I then began to take courage & almost persuaded of accomplishing your orders in full. So I continued my route, penetrating even as high as the River St. Peter through all the Sioux Villages, with your large belt without any interruption & when I came to the last village I met a party of three hundred Sioux who were coming to war with the Sauteux. I stopped this party there with a present, some chiefs coats, a medal & a flag, which I gave them from you. After great difficulty however I succeeded in stopping them & getting them to make peace. I proposed to them that they should go among the Sauteux with a pipe of peace, which I gave them from you, to smoke in and to conclude the peace. As the season was then well advanced & as the ice prevented me from advancing farther, I left my canoe with four of my men & set off to traverse the Country on foot with two Escabias & an Interpreter, 87 judging rightly that it was necessary to do the same among the Sauteux as I had just done among the Sioux. I left three days afterwards and, after having marched for seventeen days across the prairies, I arrived at the head of the St. Antoine Falls¹ in the upper part of the Mississippi in the Sauteux Country. I went into the Village of the Manonimi-Rechi, I told them all that I had done among the Sioux, with regard to them. It was then nearly forty days since a party of Sioux had killed sixteen persons in this village & made three prisoners as I have already mentioned. I remained all the rest of the winter going from Village to Village talking with the Sauteux & deciding them to make the peace which their father Sir John Johnson wished them to terminate. And after having spoken to all the Sioux, Sauteux, Follesavoines & Renards I appointed them to meet nearly ten leagues in the River St. Peter on the fourteenth of March, each of these nations kept their word & I Left myself for the place where I had said I would receive them. We passed eight days & eight nights continually in conference with one another & finally we arrived at the

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day of the great feast of peace, after which each went to his own village promising me that six men of the principal village chiefs & also war chiefs would come to Michilimakinac. I agreed with them that I would leave for the River St. Peter on the first of May & we gave our words to each other that whichever first came to the said place on the River St. Peter would wait for the others. All this was accomplished & the day agreed upon I left to go to the Prairie du Chien, where I arrived without any accident, but on our arrival there we were not so well received by the Foxes as I could have wished. On the eve of my arrival I sent a canoe to announce me in the Fox village & prevent all accidents I warned, by a letter which i wrote to Mr. C. Peterson. Director of the society² as well as the other traders, to stop

1 Falls of St. Anthony (Minneapolis)— Ed

2 The General Society (or Partnership) of Montreal Merchants trading to Michilimackinac— Ed

88 the rum during my stay at the Prairie du Chien. Immediately on my arrival I lost no time in assembling all the Foxes, Sacks, Follesavoines, Sioux & Sauteux & did all in, my power to unite their hearts which were then very much at variance. Having got the word of the Foxes, willing in spite of themselves, through the frequent councils which I held with them during the four days I remained there, I concluded to leave the fifth day well foreseeing that if I stayed longer I would not have the power to prevent the danger which threatened me. The English Traders, who had never deigned to answer my letter nor to disturb themselves much about the trouble I endured among the different nations, enemies to one another, still sent the rum as usual, & all my labours were on the verge of being destroyed by the ambition of trade in so critical a time. The day I proposed to leave was the day that Mr. Paterson assembled the Sioux & held a Council with them, without my knowledge & I was greatly surprised on their return from Mr. Paterson's that the greater part wished to leave me & return home. I tried to find out what was said at this Council but I could discover nothing except through a clerk named La Batte. I asked him what Mr. Paterson could have said to the Indians that made the greater part want to return home.

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He then plainly said to me “Mr. Aïnse as I was present at the Council I can assure you that Mr. Paterson said nothing but good to the Indians, having said that; he was master of Trade & that he was going to send to have two forts built among them, also saying to them it is true that your father Sir John Johnson is a great man but it is not in his power to send me among you if I did not wish it. Believe me, it is I, who am a Trader, that can take care of you & send you all you need.” I did not hold long discourse with him well seeing that it would not be good for me to stay here long. I had all the Canoes put into the water & left in pretty bad order to go & camp about three leagues farther down. The same evening I sent some messengers with twenty branches of porcelaine to bring back L'Aile Rouge (Red Wing) first war chief of the Sioux & many others who wished to accompany him home. I succeeded in bringing them back & continued my route as far as Michilimakinac without any interruption—

I was not surprised at the Declaration of Monsieur La Batte, about Mr. Charles Paterson's conduct, since he had already, in the upper part of the River St Peter, taken upon him to make a Chief & given him a coat & flag; that was why the great Chief of the Tinctons¹ Villages as well as the great Chiefs of the Gicitton² had not come to Michilimakinac, as they had promised after having received Sir Johnson's speech.

1 Tincton Sioux.— Ed.

2 Sisseton Sioux.— Ed.

Altogether I had six men of each different village, I had then with me one hundred and ninety six persons and as many more I had sent over by Lake Superior, having appointed them a rendezvous for the second of July on my arrival at Michilimakinac. Therefore I hope Sir that anyone might know by my conduct and by all the precautions which I took that my only ambition was to work for the public good and to save the expenses of the Indian Department as much as lay in my power, although it is not possible on so long a voyage and conducting so large a number of Indians to avoid incurring some expense, God grant

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Sir that my conduct be as you wish and that you are satisfied with my work, as far as was in my power to make valuable among the nations the few talents I possessed the employment of which you had been good enough to charge me with. I have sacrificed every moment since my departure from you. I then came to Michilimakinac in the hope of seeing you there. I found in your place Captain Dease. I had nothing more pressing than to attend to his orders and give him an account of my voyage. He appeared very well satisfied with my conduct and willing to give effect to all the words that I had given on your part to all the nations. I may say that Captain Dease was the proper person to achieve this work, and I flatter myself that all has been arranged to his wishes; he has made peace with 90 all the nations which I brought here and I assure you that all the Indians have returned home as contented as anyone could wish. But unhappily for me this was on condition that I would return again among them for a year. They have even fixed my winter quarters in the upper part of the Mississippi among the Sioux and Sauteux. Although so long a voyage would be repugnant to me I feared, Sir, to displease you if I refused Captain Deases orders, in consequence I prepared two canoes to return and take the management of all your Indian children in the South. But in the hope Sir, that you would permit me to return next year to Canada, where I would be able to render account myself of my conduct. I will give you no detail of the bad treatment which I received in this place from the Traders. I will leave this to Mr. Dease who will give you an exact account. I can only assure you Sir that the high opinion which they had of me when they addressed themselves to Your Honor and asked you to send me to make peace among the nations was a plan on their part. They doubtless depended that I would do as the others had done before me who for small trips have led the department into extraordinary expenses.

Is it then possible to believe that, with thirteen small bales of goods that I had brought with me and which I had received from Captain Byrne, I could speak to all the different villages and that I should be mistaken in having made the treaty with the Indians. I hope Sir that your opinion will alone be my judge and that justice will plead my cause on this occasion. It is true that I bought a little tobacco and wheat to send to the Indians at Michilimakinac but

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this was indispensibly necessary. Now that I have given you an exact detail of my conduct it only rests with me to give you the numbers in the different villages I passed.

1st village of Arbre Croche 260 men

The villages of the Puants altogether 340 “

The village of the Foxes 300 “

The villages of the Saques 700 “

91

1st village of the Sioux 204 men

2nd “ “ “ 230 “

3rd “ “ “ 260 “

The Sioux of the Feuille Fire1

1 Fire-Leaf Sioux.— Ed.

200 “

The large village of the Sioux called the Tinctons 800 “

3,294

It is not possible to give you the number of the Sauteux seeing that they are never settled in their place, and that one can never see them all together but I can say for certain that they are more numerous than the Sioux.

(signed) Joseph Ainse —

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Michilimakinac 16 th August 1787.

FRANCIS LE MAISTRE² TO JOHNSON.

2 Secretary to Lord Dorchester, governor of Canada (1786–1796).— Ed.

Quebec 29 th October 1787

Sir ,—Your letter of the first instant, with papers concerning some late transactions in the Upper Country, Lord Dorchester has received; since which a Memorial from several Merchants trading to those parts has been presented to his Lordship, accompanied with a Copy of their letter to Captain Scott, which, with copies and extracts of other papers, they also produced, are herewith enclosed for your information, the like having been by his Lordship's commands transmitted to the Commanding officer at Michilimackinac, that the accusations alledged against Messrs Dease & Ainsse may be made in their presence, to enable them to refute the charges affirmed by the complainants—

I am &c (signed) Frans. Le Maistre M.S.

Sir John Johnson

(True Copy) (signed) Frans. Le Maistre M. S .

Indorsed:—“Michilimakinac 16th August 1787 from Joseph Ainse. Mr. Ainse delivered this to the Com't 1st, May 1790. H. F.”

92

COST OF AINSÉE'S EXPEDITION.

Michilimackinac

Government, to L. Joseph Ainsse D r

Library of Congress

For sundry expenses incurred in a voyage to the different Nations of Indians, undertaken by order of Sir John Johnson Bart.

1786 Augt. 16th at this post before my departure

2 Large Canoes @ 400 Livrs is 800

2 sails for Do 40 “ 80

20 lbs Gum 1 “ 20

50 lbs Grease 3 “ 150

50 lbs Sugar 1–10 “ 75

8 bushels Corn 20 “ 160

1285

6 Sept at La Baye 1 Canoe for Mr. Roy 300

15 lbs Gum 15

1 Roll bark 30

345

1787 March 14th to the entry of the River St Pierre—

50 bags wild rice & Corn 20 1000

26th March to the entry of the River

31 Bags Do & Do 640

Library of Congress

1640

St Croix 11th May Praire du Chien

32 Bags corn from Onnore 640

256 lbs Grease from M. Cardinal @ 3 768

1408

Paid Mr. Giason the following vizt.

1 Canoe for the Renards 200

10 lbs Gum 10

1 Sail 30

1 Kettle 24

264

Carried over Livres 4942

93

Amount bro t forward 26th May—Portage Wisconsin

Liv. 4942

44 Bags wild Rice a 20 880

44 Bags Do & Do 800

June 4th at La Baye

Library of Congress

100 lbs Flour 150

50 lbs Grease @ 3 150

20 lbs Gum 1 30

1130

Paid Louis Cardin his wages 600

Baptiste Chevalier Do 600

Gigaire Do 600

Plamondon Do 500

Berthiammi Do 500

2800

Livres 9752

£650,2.8.

Equal to New York Currency

Sundries furnished the different Nations of Indians by order of Captain Dease vizt

July 15th Saeteaux

4500 Wampum @ 30 Liv 135

3 Canoes 200 600

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200 lbs Grease 3 600

3 sails 24 72

60 lbs Gum 1 60

1467

Scioux

4 Canoes 115 460

4 sails 24 96

400 lbs Grease 3 1900

120 lbs Gum 1 120

4 Rolls Bark 30 120

1996

Paid M r Cadot his Expenses in the Chippeway Country 772

Liv. 4235

Equal to New York Currency £282,6.8.

94

I do hereby certify that the foregoing sum of Four Thousand Two hundred Thirty five livres, or Two hundred and Eighty two pounds Six shillings & eight, New York Currency was furnished and paid by M. Louis Joseph Ainsse, agreeable to my orders, and that the sum

Library of Congress

of six hundred and fifty Pounds two shilling & 8 d New York Curry. expenses incurred by him in the Indian Country appears to me to be necessary and Proper.

(signed) John Dease . D. S.

I do certify that the several charges in the foregoing account incurred between the 16th August 1788 and July 1787, amounting to nine thousand seven hundred and fifty two livres are Just, and were indispensibly necessary for His Majesty's Indian Interest at Michilimakinac—

(signed) Michael Byrne Com'y & Clerk I.D.

Mr Ainse Dr To the General Partnership

1786. Delivered you on your departure for the Indian country: August 2 Cotton Shirts 18-8 £ 1 7 4 1 Calico do 20 1 135 lbs Gum at different times 2 13 10 Sundry Taylors work 3 9 4 The following articles furnished him in Ind. Country: Sepr. 7th By Marchesseau, at the Dog Plains, 2 Kegs Gunpowder weighing 133 lbs @10-8 70 18 8 Novr. 10th By Charles Paterson at the River St. Peters 1 fine scarlet Chief's Coat 6 13 4 6 fathom twist Tobacco 8 2 8 Decr. 15th By Joseph Rocque Ditto 6 lbs Vermillion 20 6 1 pr Blankets 3 pts 64 3 4 2 pr Do 2 Do 32 3 4 1 pr Do 1½ Do 26-8 1 6 8 1787. Jany. 29th By Jacques Frenier Ditto 3 Blankets of Strouds 53-4 5 6 8 1 pr do ½ pts 48 2 8 1 pr Leggins 13-4 13 4 1 Breech clout 10-8 10 8 5 lbs twist Tobacco 26-8 6 13 4 4 Slaves £33 6-8 133 6 8 95 Feby. 10th By Hyppolite La River Ditto 25 lbs Gunpowder 16 20 3 lbs Ball 8 2 1½ pr Blankets 2½ points 48 3 12 By Charles Paterson 5 lbs Carrot Tobacco 10-8 2 13 4 By Marchesseau of the Dog Plains May 7th 11th 41 87 lbs of Tobacco 10-8 46 8 11th 46 June 7th By Pierre Grignon at La Baye 21 Bushels Indian Corn 26-8 28 7 Bushels Wild Oats 33-4 11 13 4 60 lbs Flour 2 6 New York Currency £328 16 8

Michilimackinac 20 th August 1787

I certify to have received the above mentioned articles amounting to the sum of 328 Pounds 16 Shillings & Eight pence New York Currency, the whole for the Indian Department, as far as to the River St. Peter from the Port of Michilimackinac.

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(signed) Ainsse

Received from M r Ainsse his Draft payable in October next on Sir John Johnson Bart for the above sum, which when paid will be in full.

Michilimakinac

20th August 1787 for the General Partnership

(signed) A. Holt

N. B. The four Slaves charged in the foregoing account, were purchased by order of the Superintendent General & Inspector General of Indian Affairs in order to fulfill a promise made by Governor St. Clair to the Indians, and confirmed by Capt Robertson, to replace some of their People killed in action during the late war.

By order of the Superintendant & Inspector General P. Langan Actg. Secry. to Indian Affairs.

96

Indian Department Office Montreal 27 th November 1787

I do hereby certify that the above account amounting to Three hundred and eighty two pounds sixteen shillings and 8 d New York Currency is Just and indispensibly necessary for His Majesty's Indian Interest at Michilimakinac.

(signed) Daniel Robertson Commandant

Montreal 24 th Dec r 1787

Received of Sir John Johnson Bart. Superintend t General and Inspector General of Indian Affairs, Three hundred and Twenty eight Pounds sixteen shillings and Eight pence New

Library of Congress

York Currency for Incidental Expences in the Indian Dept as stated above, and for which we have signed two receipts of this Tenor and date.

(signed) Todd & McGill .

A True Copy from the Original (signed) P. Langan late Secry. to Ind n Affairs.

CAPTAIN CHARLTON TO LIEUT. COL. ENGLAND.1

1 Richard England, lieutenant colonel of the 24th (2d Warwickshire) regiment of foot.— Ed.

Michilimakinac 1 July 1792

Sir ,—I do myself the honor to acquaint you with a very disagreeable event that has taken place here, a chippaway savage from Lake Superior having attempted to stab a trader & 2 others, a Mr Myers Michel closed upon the Indian was wounded endeavouring to take his knife from him on which the Savage was overpowered & secured from doing any injury by tying his hands behind his back. A great many people having now Collected, were Conducting him towards the commanding officers—in this situation the poor unfortunate Indian was attacked in a most cruel & unmerciful manner by Myers Michel, John Campbell, John Stork George Edward Young, Barthelemi Blondeau, 97 Etiene Campion, and an engagé, called Lambert—who Beat, Kicked, stabled, & Tomahawked him untill they perceived me accompanied by Capt. Doyle running from my Quarters to prevent as far as in our power so savage a Brutality being committed, and to afford protection to the poor Indian, the above 7 men were in a few minutes sent to the Fort, a Coroners Inquest was held on the Body but their Verdict, not particularising any one, 2 Justices of the Peace were obliged by me to take depositions against them—in the evening the 2 Magistrates requested by letter I would keep them in the Fort till next day at 12 o'clock, but the same evening they wrote me desiring I would order the 7 Prisoners charged with the death of Wawenese to be given up to some Merchants of the Village. They have accepted bail for their appearance. The Indians who happened to be at the Post were assembled in Council

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& the most favourable explanation of the Transaction given them they appeared well satisfied with the steps they saw had been taken and behaved in every respect perfectly quiet.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Most obed't Humble Servant Edw. Charlton Capt 5th Reg't Com'g

Lt. Col: England Comm'g the District Detroit

CAPTAIN DOYLE TO ENGLAND.

Michilimakinac , 2 d Feby 1793

Sir,—I am sorry to be under the necessity of making a charge against Mr. Charles Gautier, Interpreter and Store Keeper to the Indian Department, with having embezzled the King's stores entrusted to his care, to an enormous Amount.

The proceedings of a Board of Survey with their opinion, I have the honor to transmit for your Inspection, as well as His Excellency's Colonel Simcoe.1 7

1 Colonel John Graves Simcoe, first governor of Upper Canada (1791–1794).— Ed.

98

I have sent the proceedings to Mr. Chew, Secretary of the Indian Department, giving him the reason of my refusal to pass Mr. Gautier's half yearly account, ending the 24 th Dec. Mr. Gautier acknowledged to me, that he had converted many of the Articles which are deficient to his private use, Mr. Gautier has also given me an inventory of Goods, which I transmit, furnished by him, out of the King's store, to a Mr. Langlade, now trading in the Indian Country, and Partner in the House of Cruet & Laframboise of this Post.

He expects returns to be made him by Langlade in spring which if I can lay hold of, shall be lodged in the King's store. Mr. Gautier has declared, that the Partners of Mr. Langlade,

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were ignorant of the transaction. I have some reason to think otherwise, but want proof, I expect to make more discoveries, at present the alarm is too great, I am obliged to continue this man in his employment, from the impossibility of procuring a proper person to succeed him, however, I have taken an effectual method of his not having access to the store, by fixing a second lock upon the door, the key of which, I keep, and never allow him to visit it, but in presence of a commissioned officer, which is a disagreeable task to impose upon Gentlemen, but seeing the necessity, they submitted with the Greatest cheerfulness.

I have nothing further to add, but hope a proper person will be speedily sent, to supercede Mr. Gautier, as much confusion may arise from my present situation, could Mr. Chabouilloz be appointed Interpreter and Store Keeper, it would be a relief and happiness to me, as well as every succeeding Commanding officer at this Post

I have the Honor to be Sir Your most obedient and Very Humble Servant William Doyle
Capt: 24th Regiment .

Lt. Col: England Commanding at Detroit and Dependencies .

99

MAJOR LITTLEHALES¹ TO LE MAISTRE.

1 Edw. Baker Littlehales, major of the Upper Canada brigade.— Ed.

Navy Hall March 31 st 1793.

Sir ,—In conformity to His Excellency Lt Governor Simcoe's directions, I transmit to you for the Commander in Chiefs inspection, copies of two letters from Lt. Col. England to me dated Detroit March 17, 1793, one relative to Mr. Charles Gautiere (Indian Interpreter) at Michilimackinac with four enclosures enveloped, and marked No 1, 2, 3 & 4.

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* * * * *

His Excellency Lieut. Colonel Simcoe desires me to observe that Lt. Col. England reported personally to him at Detroit the circumstances concerning Mr. C. Gautiere Indian Interpreter at Mackinac. His Excellency therefore supposing that His Majesty's service would essentially suffer by so palpable a Defaulter's remaining in office &c, Colonel McKee being required to supply his place, particularly recommended Captain La Mothe as the most proper person to succeed him; His Excellency then desired Lt. Col. England to send Mr. La Mothe there to supersede, & order down to Montreal Mr. C. Gautiere to answer for his conduct.

* * * * *

I am with regard Sir Your most obed humble servt E B Littlehales

Francis Le Maistre Esq Mil. Sect'y &c

DOYLE TO SUPERINTENDENT CHEW.2

2 Joseph Chew, Superintendent of Indian Affairs.— Ed.

Michilimackinac 17 September 1793

Dr Sir ,—I had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 13th August with the inclosures, No 1, 2, 3 by Mr. Gautier, who arrived at this post upon the 14 th Inst. judging from the spirit of your letter, and that of Mr. Secretary Coffins to you written the 29 th of July, I do not think it proper to send Mr. Gautier to Niagara at the Public Expense until I 100 am honor'd with His Excellency Colonel Simcoe's Commands on that head.

The Situation of this unhappy man, who unfortunately has a family is truly deplorable & however justly merited his sufferings are, one Cannot avoid feeling for that of his family.

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Captain Lamothe has transmitted to you a requisition of Indian presents for the ensuing year approved and signed by me, I beg leave to submit to you the necessity of their being forwarded in the most expeditious manner, having reason to believe that Indians beyond the Mississippi, propose visiting this Post early next spring for the purpose of concluding a peace with the Ottawas & Chippawa's, which will be a desirable object to attain, I must also mention there is not in Store more than fifty pounds of Tobacco, which will be Constantly diminishing when the Ottawas receive their usual presents, a small Bale of that necessary Article might be sent by a Merchts Canoe at a trifling expense.

I have no reason to be dissatisfied with the Conduct of the Indians since I have had the honor to Command. Any difficulties which have arisen between them and the Traders, I have observed the latter were generally the aggressors; I beg you'll accept my best thanks, for your obliging Communications from time to time and am with great regard.

Your most obedient and very humble servant William Doyle Capt 24 Regt

Joseph Chew Esq S. I. A. & & Montreal

GENERAL WILKINSON¹ TO ENGLAND.

1 James Wilkinson, American general-in-chief (1796–1798).— Ed.

Head Quarters Greenville May 27 th 1796

Sir ,—Permit me to offer you my hearty congratulations, on the final ratification of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce, 101 and navigation Concluded between our respective Countries, officially announced to me, by the minister of war, and promulged in the Gazettes which I do my self the pleasure to enclose you.

As the delivery of the Posts, held by Your Royal Master's Troops, within the limits of the United States, makes one condition of the compact, it is my wish to concert with you, the

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Measures, which may be deemed expedient to the faithful execution of this stipulation and to prevent any unnecessary Interval, between the period of Your Evacuation, and of my occupancy.

I stand in perfect readiness for the operation, an[d] entertaining no doubt, that the Treaty will be fairly, fully and punctiliously executed, on the part of his Majesty it becomes my Duty, to request information from you of the Day, on which it may be convenient to you, to withdraw the Troops under your Command from the Territory of the United States.

My aide de camp, Captain Shaumburg, will have the honor to deliver this letter to you, and he will receive and forward your answer to me, by Express, to meet the advanced Corps of the Army, in the Vicinity of Roche de Bout.

With much personal respect and esteem I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient servant (sgd) Ja Wilkinson

Col: England of the 24th British Infantry or commanding officer at Detroit

MR. DUGGAN TO CHEW.

Michilimackinac 5 July 1796

Sir ,—Since my last, nothing of Consequence Concerning Indian Affairs has occurred in this quarter, Every thing bears the appearance of Peace, notwithstanding the great preparations said to be making this Spring by the Indians residing in and about Milewaukee to go to war against the *Nee'dauwessies* [Sioux]. I have every reason to think, that 102 from the steps taken to prevent them, nothing more than what is Customary every spring will happen, that is a few warriors on each side going to strike against the Nations they are at variance with, which does not injure the Indian Trade, because when either Party takes a scalp or Prisoner they are satisfied and give over hostilities till the ensuing year.

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* * * * *

I am Sir Your's Most Sincerely Thomas Duggan

Joseph Chew Esqr. S. I. A Montreal

OUTFIT COMMONLY GIVEN TO INDIANS.1

1 This memorandum is unaddressed, and undated.— Ed.

To a Chief from the upper Country

1 pair of Arm bands

1 Medal with 2½ Yds Ribbon, if he has none.

1 Gorget “ ditto ditto

1 Chiefs Gun or Rifle, if they are in want of it, or ask it.

3½ Yds fine cloth for a Blanket, legings & lap

2½ Yds Linen for a shirt

1 Knife

4 Flints

1 Gun Worm

1 pair shoes

1 Blanket of 3 points

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1 Laced Hat

2 lbs Gunpowder

8 lbs ball & Shot

1 Tomahawk

18 Yds Ribbon

½ lb Vermillion

12 pair Ear bobs

300 Brooches

1 Brass or Tin Kettle

The foregoing is the Equipment given to a Mohawk Chief, but no Compleat Equipments have of late been given 103 to the Lower Canada Indians, they sometimes get a few Yds cloth a Gun, Powder & Shot, or other small Articles that they represent themselves to be in want of.

To a Chiefs Lady

5 Yards fine Cloth for a Blanket, Petticoat and legings

36 Yds Ribbon

200 Broaches

1 Blanket 2½ Points

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2½ Yds Linen or Callico

1 Plain Hat

2 Silk Handkfs

if they have Any children they generally get a Blanket for each of them of different sizes According to their Ages with Some Linen or Embossed Sirge to make them shirts

To a Common Indian

1 Common Gun

1 lb Powder

4 lbs Shot

1 Butcher Knife

4 Gun flints

1 pair shoes

1 Common Hat

1 Blanket 3 points

½ Yd Strouds for a Lap

1 Yd Molton for legings

2½ Yds Linen

1 Brass Kettle

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To His Wife

4½ Strouds for a blanket & Petticoat

1 Yd Molton for legings

2½ Yds Linen or Callico

1 plain Hat

1 Blanket 2½ points

if they have Any Children they generally get a Blanket for each with some Linen or Embossed Serge for shirts.

Lower Canada Indians receive in the fall of the Year

A Man or boy above 16 Years of Age

1 Blanket 2½ points.

Strouds ½ Yard

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Flints 4

Knife 1

Powder 1 lb

Shot & Ball 4 lbs

Molton for legings 1 Yard

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Gun Worm 1

A Woman or Girl above 16

1 Blanket

2 ½ points

Strouds for Petticoat 2 Yds

Leggings *Molton* 1 Yd

Boys and Girls between 12 and 16

1 Blanket 2 points

Boys and Girls between 8 and 12

1 Blanket 1 ½ points

Children

1 Blanket 1 point

CAPT. DRUMMOND TO SECRETARY GREEN.1

1 James Green, major of the 26 th (or Cameronian) regiment of foot.— Ed

Island of St. Joseph Septr. 26 th , 1798

Sir ,—I have the honour to send to you herewith a report of a board of Survey held on the Indian Stores on their arrival, also of what remained on hand of the old Stores. We have had a great number of Indians here this Summer, Several of them from Lake Superior, & back of Missisague never used to resort[to] Mackinack. We had several Canoes of the

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Minomines here, at the same time with a Number of Chippawas who was very Jealous of one another, but by persuasion and advice we got them to Smoke, Dance, Drink with oneother and parted seemingly good friends, however Soon after Departure the Chippawas sent the war pipe to the Minominies, and it is very probable they will be at War.

* * * * *

I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obdt humble Servant Peter Drummond Captain . 2d Batt R. C. V. Commanding.

Major Green Mil. Secty .

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CAPT. M'LEAN TO GREEN.

Amherstrburg 12 th July 1799

Sir ,—The Sloop Francis arrived here yesterday from Fort Erie laden with provisions and Stores for this Post and the Island of St. Joseph, she is unloaded and immediately to return to Fort Erie.

I received a few days ago a letter from Mr President Russell by which it appears that as usual, he has lately received a false alarm from this quarter in consequence of a Letter written by me to Capt. McKee proposing indeed by his own desire a mode by which the necissities of the Indians might be sufficiently attended to without any unnecessary profusion, and this was rendered absolutely necessary by the Conduct of the Indians every day in disposing in large quantities of rum, of the corn and other articles of provisions received unnecessarily, which neither Capt. McKee nor Mr Selby from their residence at Sandwich cou'd have observed, but of which I acquainted the former previous to writing him the Letter in question, which his absence made it necessary should be communicated to him in that way, and which I thought the most eligible mode to prevent

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any future misrepresentation. I received no written answer in return, but soon after saw Captain McKee when he coincided in opinion with me, but added that he must report to Mr President Russell and to Capt Claus, from which I am confident the letter to Capt Claus under his signature neither contained his sentiments or originated with himself, but is merely the production of Mr. Ass't Sec'y Selby, to whom it is no new thing to create trouble, If Capt. McKee was not too much under his influence and guided by his Council, I am certain the Indians wou'd be better managed without any unnecessary expense, I enclose for the Commander in chiefs information Copy of the Presidents letter to me with my answer, which may serve to throw some light upon this business, likewise a Copy of Capt. McKees letter to Capt. Claus and of my letter which produced it, I am sorry that the false reports so frequently propagated in this way are attended with so much trouble, 106 and it occupies no small part of my time (that might be employed to better purposes) in confuting and contradicting them.

That there has been any complaint from the Indians is a great falsehood. Two days ago we had a council consisting of about 200 of the neighbouring Indians and 50 others (Saachs & Foxes tribes) from the Mississippi side and not the smallest expression of murrer or discontent among the whole, to which all the officers of the Garrison who were present can bear testimony. The chief cause of the Council was to deliver up to their friends three female prisoner children taken by the Potawatamies from a Nation called the Piankishaws, & sent by the former to be delivered up. These prisoners were brought here by the Saachs and Reynards or Foxes, who received them on their way to this place from the Potawatamies, and they signified a wish that the neighbouring Indians should be present at the ceremony of restoring these poor Children to their friends in which they were indulged, when peace and unanimity was strongly recommended to the whole of them and which indeed the different Tribes recommended to each other and promised to observe themselves, and to pay no attention to the tales of ill disposed Birds that might be inclined to disturb their repose.

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The 50 Saachs and Reynards from the Mississippi Came in with an Indian sent out in the spring by order I believe of Mr. Russell to procure intelligence, and have contributed in no small degree to the expense of this Post, they are an able body of men and not so Corrupted in their morals as the Indians of this vicinity, and more in a State of Nature. But I do not understand the policy of encouraging them from so great a distance. There were twenty of the Same tribes here last year, but it appeared or at least was pretended that they came here by mistake, having produced an American Flag and a letter which had been sent them by Genl. Wilkinson but which they said (or at least others for them) they understood had been sent by our Gov't and was the Cause of their visit to know the purport 107 of it. They were well received and requisitions made for provisions and presents with which they went off loaded. Forseeing it might be the means of their returning again this year in greater numbers I did not altogether approve of that excess of Liberality towards them, which I have no doubt is the real cause of their present visit as two of these last year, remained here all winter with Capt McKee, went out in the spring in Comp'y with the Indians sent to the Mississippi for intelligence and returned with their friends now. These Saachs and Foxes are said to have been originally the same people with the Shawanese as they speak nearly the Same Language and are supposed to have gone from this Country about eighty years ago.

The Cause now assigned for their visit is that they were told their Fidelity to the British Government had been doubted, or rather suspected, and that they Came merely to convince us of their unshaken attachment to us, and that report had done them injustice. For my own part I don't see the necessity of giving ourselves much Concern about Indians at so great a distance, and their fidelity if at all of any Consequence, I never understood to have been suspected, but even if it were, I cannot see the necessity of telling them so, to have put them to the trouble of Coming so far to justify themselves, and putting us to the expense of giving them so much Provisions and presents during about a month they have been about here, Major...[MS. illegible] you sent by the three Commissioners for executing the office of Dep'y Superint'd Gen'l was Authorized to bring them here or to acquaint them

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that their fidelity was suspected, I think it was improper and I know nothing at all about the matter. We are told one day that a number of Indians are Coming in a hostile manner from that Quarter, and the next we are told of a numerous band coming as friends. How are we to discriminate ? at least until they are amongst us.

Tho' I have not the smallest cause to suspect these people yet I think the Safest way is to watch with Jealous Eye all Indians from so great a distance bordering on an Enemies frontier.

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I told Capt: McKee that my wish was to receive all well, & that they be sent off satisfied, but that whatever might be given them should be such, as not to make it an object for them to return for it another year, and that they ought to be told that when they had any business to transact with us or any thing particular to Communicate they should send a few of their Chiefs instead of coming in large bodies, there has been a very moderate requisition made for them this day, & they are to depart tomorrow. We have purchased a pair of good young [horses] for Government at £30. Halifax each, this will tend to reduce the Contract for teams or at least the price; the Maple Sugar has been all sold but Mr. Reynolds not having as yet Collected the whole of the Money is the Cause of the Bill of sale not being transmitted

I have the honor to be Sir Your Me: obedt humble Servant Hector Mc Lean Capt. R. C. V.

Major Green Mil. Secy

CAPTAIN BULLOCK¹ TO GENERAL PROCTOR.²

¹ Richard Bullock, captain of the 41st foot, and commandant at Michilimackinac. See "Dickson and Grignon Papers," in *Wis. Hist. Coll*, xi., p. 217 *et seq.*, bearing upon this point.— Ed

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2 Henry A. Proctor, brigadier general in the British army.— Ed

Michilimackinac 25 th September 1813

No 1 “I found here the nation of Sioux Indians and some of the Menomines waiting for the arrival of the Indian goods to receive their presents,—In the conversation I had with Mr. Dickson³

3 Colonel Robert Dickson, British Indian agent for the Western District. See Mr. Cruikshank's paper on Dickson, *post.*— Ed

previous to my leaving Sandwich and the instructions I received from you respecting the presents to the Indians, I am led to suppose that Mr. son thought the supplies would arrive from Montreal by the Dicktime I got to Michilimackinac, these supplies are not yet arrived and I found the Indian store empty,

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The season being far advanced the Sioux became very clamorous, and they having a great distance to go to their homes (some of them 1200 leagues) had fixed a day for their departure and would have gone away being much dissatisfied. I in consequence thought it advisable for the benefit of His Majesty's service and to retain their friendship to borrow from the Merchants a sufficiency of goods for them, which I did with difficulty on condition of their being returned as soon as the Indian goods arrive from Montreal, and the Sioux and Menominies went from hence very much pleased on the 19th What I have done notwithstanding it is Militating against the rules laid down for the Guidance of the Indian Department, will I trust meet with your approbation.

In the instructions I received from you, Arms & Gunpowder were mentioned to be sent to the Mississippi, the former of which I could not comply with, there being none in store, the latter “Gunpowder” I have sent in charge of Lieut Grinier¹

Library of Congress

1 Louis Grignon, of Green Bay, a lieutenant in the Indian Department, under Dickson.—
Ed

of the Indian Department, and the Arms shall be forwarded without loss of time when they arrive from Montreal.”

No 2 “I have made every inquiry respecting the Enemy in the neighbourhood of the Mississippi and do not learn that any of them are advancing in this direction, should they attempt it, I shall have immediate intelligence from the Interpreters at the Bay [Green Bay] and will lose no time in giving you the earliest information thereof.—”

No 3 “I herewith send you an estimate of what provisions it is supposed will be wanted for this Post to the 24th April next, and I also send to the Brigade Major a monthly return of the garrison for your information.—The commissary informs me that he has not provisions in store for a longer period than the end of next month, I therefore most earnestly entreat you, Sir, to consider our wants before the navigation closes.”

No 4 “There are in this garrison two American Prisoners given up by the Indians the 10th and 12th of August 110 last to Mr. Askin¹

1 Captain John Askin, store-keeper at Michilimackinac.— Ed

the Indian store keeper. One of them was taken at the River Raisin, the other at the 4 mile creek, near Fort George, there is also here a Boy, (Peter Bell) 5 or 6 years of age, whose Father and mother were killed at Chicagoe this boy was purchased from the Indians by a trader and brought here, last July by directions of Mr. Dickson—I could wish to know your pleasure respecting them.”

No 5 “The company of Michigan Fencibles raised here by Mr. Bailey are in a deplorable state for want of clothing, they are in general a good body of men and when *drilled* may be of service to the country, they are chiefly Canadians inlisted from the service of the Traders and seem to be very well disposed.—With respect To Mr. Bailey I hope some

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instructions will be sent me concerning him. it being incompatible for him to hold both situations.”

No 6 “Public money at this Post there is none, the dearth of which is injurious to the service, and unless Mr. Commissary Gilmore sends a supply (through which channel I am informed the Commissary here receives it) before the close of the navigation, we shall be badly off indeed.”

(Signed) Richard Bullock Capt. 41st Regt.

Major Genl. Proctor &c &c &c

True copy John Scott Capt & M. B

BULLOCK TO SECRETARY FREER,2

2 Noah Freer, lieutenant in the Canadian Fencible Infantry.— Ed

Michilimackinac 23 d Octr

Dear Sir ,—The Newspapers and Army List you were so kind to send by Mr. Dickson was a welcome treat to us here as we seldom hear anything of passing events, & if you would have the goodness, when an opportunity offers to send a few more with anything new at the time

You will much oblige Dear Sir Your very obedt servant Richd Bullock , Cap. 41st Regt

Lieut. N. Freer, Mil: Secty, Montreal .

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COLONEL DICKSON TO FREER.

Michilimackinac Oct. 28 d 1818

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Sir ,—Leaving York on the 2d Inst: after having made the necessary arrangements for the transport of Provisions, I was unfortunate enough to be detained twenty days on my route to this place by tempestuous weather.

On my arrival here, I found that Capt. McKay¹ had every thing ready for my proceeding to the Interior, it is very fortunate as any detention at this late season would be Very injurious.

¹ Major William McKay. See account of his capture of Prairie du Chien in 1814, by Douglas Brymner, in *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., p. 254 *et seq.*— Ed

The assortment of Indian Goods sent up is an excellent one, and I think it fully adequate to support the Indians for this Winter.—You will please inform His Excellency, that I expect to receive orders during the Winter what steps I am to take next Spring, it is probable that I shall be on the Mississippi during the Winter.

Should the Enemy make no attempt on this Post before the navigation Closes, I am fully of opinion, that with proper support we will be able to baffle any attempt of the Enemy for the next season. Capt McKay and Mr. Crawford² are fully acquainted with the state of this part of the Country, and will be both of the greatest service in bringing forward whatever may be necessary for the supply and defence of this Island. Capt Bullock is doing every thing in his power to make it as secure as possible.

² Louis Crawford, of Michilimackinac. *Ibid.*, pp. 808, 804.— Ed

I should have been happy to have sent His Excellency a Journal of my Voyage last spring as he requested, but the advanced period of the season precluded me from having that satisfaction at present.

I send you a map of Lake Simcoe on a large scale. I think that if a road is to be Cut the best route is from Kempenfelt Bay to that of Penet Angusheen.—

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I trust that my accounts contracted for the Government, 112 will meet with the approbation of His Excellency, as they were indispensably necessary

I have the honor to be with Sentiments of Respect Sir Your Most Obedt & humble Servt
Robrt Dickson

Noah Freer Esq .

BULLOCK TO CAPTAIN LORING.1

1 Robert Roberts Loring, captain in the 104th foot.— Ed

Fort Michilimackinac 26 th Feb 1814

Sir ,—I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 12th ulto: (Received on the evening of the 23d Inst:) acquainting me by directions of Lieutenant General Drummond² that a quantity of Provisions had been sent to Notawasaque Bay and a further quantity was about to be sent to Penetanguishene Bay destined for this Post, which Provisions we are much in want of.

2 Sir George Gordon Drummond, second in command to Sir George Prevost, governor of Canada (1811–1814).— Ed

In reply to the information required by the General, I am sorry to say that our Resources here are very few, and in that, of the article of provisions almost consumed; at the time I received the account of the Retreat of the Right Division from Amherstburg, the Government provision was nearly exhausted, there being but sixty eight pounds of salt meat in store, and Flour only sufficient to serve the small garrison for one month.— Amherstburg being the Depot from whence this Post had been always supplied, and the late season of the year rendering any supply from York very precarious—I immediately turned my mind to find out what resources there were on the Island, and in its vicinity,

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and I directed Mr, Bailey of the Commissariat Department to proceed without loss of time to the small settlements in the Neighbourhood for that purpose, and to purchase every species of Provisions he could procure, both on the Island and in places adjacent, which he did at 113 most exorbitant prices, and on which we have been existing since October.—the proportion of Animal Food purchased, was so small, that I found it necessary on the 1st November, to reduce the ration of Beef to half a pound per day, and since, on the 25th Decmr, to limit the issue of meat to four days in the week, at the above rate—so that the troops &c might have a small proportion of that food as long as possible,—and which they will have until about the middle of the ensuing month.—We must then have recourse to Indian Corn and Fish—of the latter we have been fortunately successful in obtaining a good supply, and on which we must exist until Provisions can be sent us:—The number of Boats &c I can send to Notawasaque and Penetanguishan Bay in the ensuing spring to assist in bringing the supply's &c will be—2 Batteaux, 2 large Birch Canoes, and a *Keel* Boat,—There is no clothing of any description in store, and I send herewith Returns of what is wanted—also a state of the garrison and a nominal List of officers—The men have been paid to the 24th January, except those on command at the Island of St Josephs and Green Bay.—The number of Indians immediately about us are but few and not exceeding Forty.—this being their Hunting season, they are employed in that avocation far back in the woods;—I expect numbers here early in the spring—they appear to be well disposed towards us—nor have I heard of any that have attached themselves to the American Govert,—except a few of the Sagulnas, Residing at Sagulna Bay on the south side of the Huron—about 150 miles from hence.—I have not been able to obtain any information respecting the Enemy's vesse/s , none of them appeared on Lake Huron last fall. nor have I been able to collect any intelligence from Detroit, notwithstanding I have offered a considerable sum for that purpose: I shall pay close attention to the works, Picketting &c of the Fort, and my exertions will not be wanted in keeping this Post in the bast state of Defence;—Please to inform General Drummond, that Robert Dickson Esqr, Agent & Superintendent to the Western Indians, writes me from Green Bay (on the West side of Lake 8 114 Michigan) that he intends being here as early as possible in the spring

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with about six hundred warriors, and one hundred white people of every description—the consumption of provisions will of course be very great, and should the people arrive previous to the intended supply I dread the consequence.

I have the honor to be &c &c &c (sgnd) Richd Bullock Capt 41 st Regt

Captain Loring Aid de Camp &. &. &. York

A MORNING REPORT, AT PRAIRIE DU CHIEN.

Morning Report of a detachment of Rangers on command — Prairie du Chiens — under command of Maj. J[ames] Campbell

Camp Hard Water No 15. July 19th 1814 Present Sick For Duty per Music on board C & S boats Lieutenants Sarjeants Corporals Musicians Privates Privates Privates Lieutenants Serjeants Corporals Privates Total Aggregate Lt Weaver Detach. Infantry 1 2 2 2 1 8 8 41 42 Lt Rectors ditto Rangers 1 1 24 1 6 32 33 Lt. Riggs ditto ditto 1 1 1 24 6 32 33 2 4 2 2 68 1 8 1 20 105 108 115

FROM THE MOUTH OF THE ROCK.1

1 Unaddressed and unsigned.— Ed

Mouth of Rock River July 20 th 1814

Sir ,—I arrived here about ten o'clock yesterday and was met by the Indians bearing a Flag, several of them spoke but had little to say of importance, they appear friendly and well disposed. Nothing of importance has happened since I last wrote to you & shall set out in a few moments and lose no time till I arrive at my place of destination which will be in seven or eight days. Two Indians leave this place as express to Prairie du Chien. The Indians by which this letter will be handed you are Sacks and sent by the request of Governor Clark.2

2 William Clark, governor of Missouri. See sketch, *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., pp. 258, 259.— Ed

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The Troops are considerably unhealthy and am in bad health myself.

Indorsed:—"Supposed to be written by Major Campbell commanding the reinforcements on their way to Fort Shelby, now Fort Mackay & where he was to command—he was next day attacked. by the above "friendly and well disposed" Indians & his whole detachment to a man cut off & himself killed, the Indians brot in his passes & commission."

LIEUT. COL. M'KAY TO LIEUT. COL, M'DOUALL.³

³ See *Ibid.*, xi., p. 263 for McKay's letter of July 27 and 29, to Lieut. Colonel Robert McDouall of the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles, giving an account of the capture of Fort Shelby, now named Fort McKay.— Ed

Fort Mckay August 1 st 1814.

Lt. Col. R. McDouall Commanding Michillimackinac and its dependencies &c. &c .

Sir ,—Captain Rolette's⁴ business calling him to Michilimackinac and as everything is pretty well settled here I allow him to go, a part of the volunteers from the Bay such as heads of families, and all those that have harvest to gather in I also give them their liberty—they have behaved well.

⁴ Joseph Rolette, fur trader at Prairie du Chien. See *Ibid.*, index.— Ed

116 The Sauks, Renards, Kiekapoos and part of the Sioux have left this yesterday. The little Corbeau¹ has gone to distribute the presents they got at McKinac to his nation. The Feuille² remains here with a few men as a guard. The little Cotbeau will remain at his own village in readiness at a moments warning if wanted here—But intends coming with his whole band to winter a short distance above this.

¹ Little Crow (*Corbeau*), a Sioux chief, concerning whom consult *Id.*, x., index, and xi., p. 276.— Ed

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2 Wabasha, or The Leaf (*La Feuille*), Cf. *Id.*, xi., pp. 263, 290.— Ed

I am now putting in order the Fort &c here & will have everything in as good a state of defence as circumstance will admit in a short time. As soon as the Gun Boat, that I have sent to the Rock River for the guns the Indians had taken returns and if everything at that time wears a favorable aspect I will leave this for McKinac, and make the best of my—in for I certainly could not live six months in this very warm climate. I think the sooner a reinforcement is sent out the better. Powder is particularly requisite there remaining none but what is for the garrison. Exclusive of the Sioux presents I have sent below among the Sauks Renards & Kiekapoos 20 Kegs of Gun Powder & 14 Bales goods. The Puants did not use one ounce of the Powder they got at McKinac for the use of this Expedition. On the contrary they left their guns and Ammunition on their own lands—so that I have been obliged to furnish them, ever since they have been with us.

Enclosed you will receive sundry of the Enemies' papers taken by the indians &c amongst which is an Illinois newspaper of the 18th Ultimo. giving a short detail of their expedition up here, and that most gallant action of having stormed & taken two old trunks belonging to R. Dickson Esq. a grand prize for Gov. Clark, the two trunks containing old Merchantile letters & accounts since the year 1786. This will be a good acquisition to the Governor who I presume will have them exposed for sale in his store for the purpose of pasting windows. My forces here at present are about 120 consisting of Michigans Volunteers & Militia 117 there is also about 50 idle Indians about the village. I send in by Capt. Rolette two British deserters found here in the American service and two bad subjects who were very busy when the Americans arrived here in wishing to depreciate the British Character, One of the name of Pinard, was most particularly active in this abuse. Captain Rolette begs me to request you will give him his discharge as it is not convenient for him to remain in the service. Capt. Anderson¹ on the contrary wishes to remain during the war. I send herewith the names of those prisoners sent to St. Louis. The American Troops that were stationed here are of the 7th U.S. regiment.

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1 Thomas G. Anderson, trader at Milwaukee. Consult *Ibid.*, index.— Ed

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedient Humble Servant W. McKay Lt. Col. Comg.

DRUMMOND TO PREVOST.

(Camp Near Fort Erie August 11 th 1814

Sir ,—

* * * * *

I have directed an account of the outrages committed by the Enemy against the unsuspecting Winnebagoes at Prat rie des Chiens, to be communicated to all the Indians here, in Council this day.—I trust it will have the desired effect of creating in them a spirit of enterprize, and of renewing that ardour which appears in many to be at present nearly extinct.²

2 Cf. *Ibid.*, p. 260, where Colonel McDouall claims that the Americans murdered seven Winnebagoes,— Ed

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedt humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl .

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c &c

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DRUMMOND TO PREVOST.

Camp before Fort Erie August 31 st 1814.

Sir ,—I have the honor to enclose herewith two dispatches¹ from Lieut: Colonel McKay, of the Canadian Militia, to Lieutenant Colonel Macdouall, Commanding at Michillimackinac,

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detailing the operations of the Force under his orders, against the Enemy's position at La Prairie des Chiens.—

1 McDouall's dispatch of July 16, 1814, and McKay's of July 27, 1814, are given in *Ibid.*, pp. 260–270.— Ed

The Conduct of Lieut Coln McKay, and the Troops, accompanying him, appears to be most highly deserving of commendation.

The Despatches I transmit to Your Excellency at the request of Lieutenant Colonel Macdouall.

I have the honer to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl.

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c .

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DISTRIBUTING INDIAN PRESENTS.

Instructions for the distribution of Indian Presents, Embarked in thirteen Canoes under the charge of Mr. Porlier² for Michilimackinac &c

2 Lieutenant James J. Porlier. Cf. *Id.*, x. and xi., index's.— Ed

A canoe having been detained here for medals, silver works and Flags not then arrived, and to carry more particular instructions regarding the Indian Presents in the Twelve Canoes lately dispatched, including what the present one may contain, I now confirm what was written by Mr. Porlier, vizt., that the goods marked M with the exceptions herein after mentioned, are for the Indians usually supplied from the Post with Presents, and to be distributed as such under the direction of the officer commanding, with the customary formalities, and in such manner as shall be most conducive to the benefit of His Majesty's service, for confirming the Indians in their attachment to this Government,

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or reclaiming such of them (if any there be) as from any unforeseen Misfortune or Circumstance may be wavering.

Those goods marked I, with the additions below are intended as presents to the Western Indians who are under the agency of Robert Dickson Esq. and especially such tribes thereof as furnished warriors under his directions, or by his orders; and are on no account to be touched at the Post, otherwise than for safe keeping, until he or Captain Wm McKay, or some other person especially sent, shall appear for the purpose of conducting the same to La Baye, or such other place as may be found most proper for the distribution thereof of Mr Dickson, Capt McKay or such other person especially sent, to the Western Indians under his Agency as above said in such manner as he shall judge to be most conducive to the benefit of His Majesty's service as above said.

It being considered an object of the greatest importance under present circumstances, that the goods I with the additions after mentioned should be sent to La Baye or further, The officer Commanding at Michilimackinac will grant every possible aid for affecting that object by furnishing Batteaux or canoes and takling, with men to man them, from the Corps of Michigan Fencibles, who should be instructed to follow the orders of Mr. Dickson or Capt McKay whilst employed in the conveyance of these goods.

Instructions were sent by Mr. Perlier, that all the Canoes and takling from hence are to be delivered over to Mr. Frederick Oliver, after unloading, excepting twelve Oyl Cloths, which are to be retained for the protection from the weather, of the said goods I when transporting to La Baye.

These instructions are now confirmed and Mr. Oliver will provision the Guides and men on their voyage down with Packs, respecting which they are to follow his orders, the officer commanding will cease to have further trouble with them.

As the Ball & Shot were not susceptible of being marked, 120 so as to retain it visible the distribution thereof is to be as follows, viz:

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24 Bags Ball M and 36 bags for I

4 " Beaver do " 8 " " I

10 " Duck do " 10 " " I

If of the Gunpowder sent this season there now remains at Michilimackinac ten kegs or upwards the commanding officer will in such case, retain only 20 kegs of that lately sent, and consider sixty one thereof as belonging to the goods I and to accompany the same, but if there are not 10 kegs of the former powder remaining, then thirty kegs of that by these Canoes, are to remain for M and fifty one to be applied to the mark I and be forwarded therewith, at same time it is much wished that there may be the means of sending sixty kegs of powder with the goods I.

The Tobacco being by mistake all marked M Twenty five bales thereof viz: 41 & 65 only, are for that mark, and forty bales vizt: 1 & 40 are for the goods I and consequently to sent with them, the same as if those bales had been so marked.

The medals, silver Works & Flags, not having been yet received here, must form the subject of a separate memorandum at the foot of the Invoice or otherwise.

And the officer commanding, as well as Mr. Dickson and all others concerned, are to consider it as a most peremptory and special instruction, that the strictest impartiality in the distribution to Indians is to be followed, and the good of His Majesty's service is to be the paramount rule.

All the goods without exception are in the first instance to be Delivered over to the senior officer in the Indian Department, who will afterwards without delay, transfer the portion destined for La Baye to Mr. Dickson, Capt McKay or other person appointed to take

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charge thereof, for the purpose of being distributed according to the instructions herein given.

By authority of the Commander of the Forces

(Sgd) R. H. Sheaffe M. Genl . & &

To the Commanding officer and all others concerned Michilimackinac & & &

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THE DUKE OF YORK¹ TO PREVOST.

1 Field Marshal H. R. H. Frederick, Duke of York, K. G. and K. B., commander-in-chief of all His Majesty's forces.— Ed.

Horse Guards 15 th Octr. 1814

Sir ,—

* * * * *

I am very much pleased with the report you communicate of the conduct of Lieutenant Colonel McDoual in the repulse of the Enemy's attacks upon the Posts of Michilimackinac and also of the successful Issue of an Expedition from that Island under Lieut: Colonel McKay against the American Establishment at La Prairie du Chein.

I am Sir Yours Frederick Commander in Chief

Lieutenant General Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c &c

INDIAN STORES DELIVERED TO DICKSON.

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Invoice of Sundry Indian Stores delivered Robert Dickson Esqr. Agent & Superintendent of the Western Nations by order of Lieut. Coln. McDouall Comdg Michilimackinac.

Arm Bands Pairs thirty Buttons doz Twenty four Beads Pounds thirty Brooches No Eighteen hundred and 74 Ball & Shot lbs Five thousand & 460 Blankets 1 point No one hundred & seventy nine 1 ½ do “ Ninety 2 do “ One hundred & ninety seven 2 ½ do “ Eleven hundred & three 3 do “ Two hundred & ninety five Cotton striped Yards Four hundred & eight Cloth Broad “ One hundred & fifty one Candle week Balls Six Ear bobs Pairs Twelve hundred & fifty 122 Epualets No Ten Flints “ Four thousand five hundred Feathers “ Ten Files & Rasps “ Eighteen Gorgets “ Forty Garnets Bunches Fifteen Gartering Gro. Eleven Guns Muskets No Five Common “ One hundred & five Chiefs & fine “ One hundred & thirty eight Gun powder lbs. Three thousand nine hundred & 33 Hats Laced No Twenty seven Handfs Silk “ Four hundred & sixteen Cotton “ Fifty Hangers “ Eighteen Hooks Cod “ Two hundred Iron pounds One hundred & two Knives butcher No Five hundred & sixty six Kettles Tin “ Sixty Lace Brocade Yards Two hundred Molton “ Two hundred Needles No Three thousand five hundred Pistols “ Six Ribbon Yds Nine hundred Skins deer No Fifty Silk Sewing pounds One Steel fire No Seventeen hundred & thirty two German lbs Forty two Sheeting Russia Yds Seventy five Saches silk No Five Lines Cod “ Fourteen Strouds Yds Eighteen hundred & twenty Flour lbs Four thousand Thread Sewing lbs Forty eight Net “ Eighteen Twine “ Twenty eight Tommyhawks Pipe No Four 123 Vermillion lbs Fifty eight Wampum collars No Nine Worms Gun Gro Two

Indian Department Michilimackinac 29 th Octr 1814 Jno Askin 1

1 Captain John Askin. Consult *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., index.— Ed.

M'KAY TO PREVOST.2

2 Undated, but hearing internal evidence of having been written early in November, 1814. — Ed.

Report made by Capt. William McKay to His Excellency Sir George Prevost .

Captain William McKay has the Honor to Report to His Excellency Sir George Prevost Governor General and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in America, that

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in compliance to instructions received from Major General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe by authority from the Commander of the Forces, a copy of which instructions are hereunto annexed, Capt. McKay on the 21st day of September last left Montreal on a voyage to Michilimackinac in a Canoe with Medals, Silver Works and Flags, &c part of the Indian presents; That twelve Canoes, loaded with Indian Presents left Montreal about the 12th September. That this last mentioned Canoes Capt. McKay overtook on the 26th September at a place called Mantua or the entrance of the little river. That Capt. McKay informed Mr. Porlier who had charge of the said Canoes, that he had the instructions from the Commander of the Forces to proceed to Michilimackinac and take measures conformable to such instructions with Mr. Robert Dickson if arrived at Michilimackinac for the purpose of distributing the said Indian Presents to the Several Tribes of Indians according to the instructions and desire of Government. That Capt. McKay for that purpose proceeded on, and desired Mr. Porlier to follow him with the utmost expedition. Capt. McKay arrived at Michilimackinac on the 9th day of October, and not finding Mr. Dickson there, Capt. McKay immediately reported his arrival to Capt Bullock of the 41st Regiment Commanding the Fort of Michilimackinac and communicated to him the instructions of his mission there, and as Mr. Dickson was not arrived, he Capt. McKay would require assistance as he expected he would be obliged to proceed to La Baye and the Mississippi with the goods and presents he had with him as well as those coming on with Mr. Porlier. That Capt. Bullock afforded Capt. McKay every assistance in preparing for his intended voyage, in Boats, men & provisions, &c. &c. That the said twelve Canoes under Mr. Porlier arrived at Michilimackinac on the 19th & 20th October. That Capt. McKay delivered over all the goods marked M to Mr. Askin the senior officer of the Indian Department and retained those marked I and as the winter was there set in, and nearly a foot of snow on the Ground and all the small brooks frozen over, not a moment was lost to lead the boats prepared to forward the said goods and presents to their respective destination conformable to the Instructions Capt. McKay had received upon his leaving Montreal. That Capt. McKay had taken every precaution to proceed in person to La Bare and the Mississippi as Mr. Dickson had not arrived at Michilimackinac. However when everything

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was ready for the Departure of Capt. McKay Mr. Dickson arrived and to him Capt. McKay gave over six Boats which he had loaded with the goods and presents marked I intended for the Western Indians, at the same time Capt McKay offered to accompany Mr. Dickson if he Mr. Dickson thought his presence any wise necessary upon which Mr. Dickson observed to Capt. McKay, that he had with him several officers and interpreters and that he would distribute the said goods and presents to the Indians according to the desire and wishes of Government, and particularly desired that Capt. McKay would return to Lower Canada and report to the Commander of the Forces the very great desire he Mr. Dickson had to receive by express, as soon as possible, instructions, what the Government wished him to do in respect to the Tribes of Indians next spring, that for the present he was quite at a loss how to act, that in the meantime he would endeavour to do for the best. Capt. 125 McKay cannot refrain from again mentioning the very great anxiety evinced by Mr. Dickson to have instructions from Government for his Guidance and conduct in respect to the Tribes of Indians under his influence; That on the 24th October Mr. Dickson having received from the commanding officer and from Capt. McKay every assistance, set out for LaBay and the Mississipi with six boats loaded with the said presents and maned with a detachment of the Michigan Fencibles consisting of a Lieutenant and 26 men and 14 Canadians, Mr. Dickson brought with him from York. That although the season was much advanced as above mentioned Capt. McKay has no doubt but Mr. Dickson will arrive at his destination and there find the Indians waiting for him, as Capt. McKay immediately and without the least loss of time sent an Express, one to Rock [Rocque] an Indian Interpreter to acquaint the Indians that the presents were coming on, and that Mr. Dickson or he Capt. McKay, would go on with them to make the distribution thereof. As provisions were scarce at Michilimackinac, Capt. McKay knowing that flour could be obtained at LaBay sent on a Mr. [Louis] Grignon to procure it and have it ready so that the two boats with 14 men that were to go to Labay might return immediately with Flour which from the precautions taken, Mr. McKay has no doubt will be done, in order to obtain a further supply of Provisions, Capt. Bullock was the day after Capt McKay left Michilimackinac, that is on the 27th. October to send two boats to Machidash Bay for

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the Pork and Flour, Mr. Dickson informed Captain Bullock had been there forwarded by Government, That all these arrangements having been made, Capt. McKay on the 25th Octr. left Michilimackinac to return to Montreal, where he arrived on the 5th November and has now the honor of making this present report to the Commander of the Forces.

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COURT OF INQUIRY AT GREEN BAY.

Proceedings of a Court of Enquiry held on the 13th November 1814 at Green Bay, Lake Michigan, pursuant to instructions from Lieut Colonel McDouall, commanding the Island of Michilimackinac and its dependencies.

Captain Bulger Captain Royal Newfoundland Regt President

Members

Robert Dickson Esq. Agt & Superdnt of the Western Indians

Captain Duncan Graham of the Indian Department

The Court proceeded to investigate the losses of certain individuals of Green Bay, from deprivations committed on their property by the Indians.¹

¹ See "List of Inhabitants at Green Bay, September 14, 1818," in *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, x., pp. 136–140. The value of live stock in Green Bay, as set forth in the following claims, would have been exorbitant on a gold basis, but the currency in circulation was depreciated paper. See *Id.*, xi., p. 274, note, for facsimiles of the paper money then in use in Wisconsin.— Ed.

The following statement of their losses in Cattle was laid before the Court.

Jacques Porlair

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1 Calf valued at £5

1 large Hog 6- 5

1 middling do. 3- 2- 6

2 Horses at £10-8-4 each 20-16- 8

35- 4- 2

Louis Grignon

1 Cow valued at 16-13- 4

1 Colt 6- 5-

2 Bulls at 10-8-4 each 20-16- 8

4 large Hogs at 6-5 each 25-

68-15-

Brisque Yott

1 Draft Ox 20-16- 8

1 Cow 16-13- 4

5 large hogs £6-5 each 31- 5

12 small do 16-8 each 10

78-15

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Louis, Gravelle

2 Heifers of 1 year at £5 each 10

3 large Hogs 6- 5 18-15

7 small do 16- 8 5-16- 8

34-11- 8

Alexis Garrupy

1 Mare 10- 8- 4

1 Draft Ox 20-16- 8

2 large Hogs at £6- 5- ea 12-10

4 middling do 3- 2- 6 ea 12-10

56- 5

Dominique Brunette

10 middling hogs at 3- 2- 6 ea 31- 5

3 large do 6- 5- ea 18-15

1 cow 16-13- 4

1 bull 10- 8- 4

1 Colt 2½ years 6- 5

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1 do 1 year 3-

86-6- 8

Joseph Jourdain & Paul Decharme

2 Draft Oxen at £20-6-8 ea 41-13- 4

1 Cow 16-13- 4

1 large Hog 6- 5

1 Calf of 5 months 3

2 middling Hogs £3-2-6 ea 6- 5

73-16- 8

J. B. Jacobs & B. Chevallier

2 Cows at £16-13-4 ea 33- 6- 8

33-6-8

Augustin Bonneterre

1 Cow 16-13- 4

16-13- 4

Jacques Veau

2 Draft Oxen at £20-16-8 ea 41-13- 4

Library of Congress

1 Horse 10- 8- 4

6 large Hogs at £6-5 ea 37-10

2 middling do 6- 5

95-16- 8

128

Gabriel Rabbi

2 large Hogs £6-5 ea 12-10

2 Horses 10-84 ea 20-16- 8

33-6-8

George Forsin

2 Cows £16-13-4 ea 33- 6- 8

1 Draft Ox 20-16- 8

1 large Hog 6- 5

6 middling do. £3-2-6 18-15

79-3-4

Amable Narimont

2 Bulls £10-8-4 ea 20-16- 8

1 Horse 10- 8- 4

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31-5

Francais L'Aventure

1 Cow 16-13- 4

3 large Hogs £6-5 ea 18-15

35-8-4

Charles Reaume

1 Draft Ox 20-16

1 Young Ox of 2 years 10- 8- 4

2 Cows at £16-13-4 ea 33- 6- 8

1 large Hog 6- 5

4 middling do at £3-2-6 ea 12-10

1 mare 10- 8- 4

1 Colt 3

96-15

J. B. Langevin

2 Oxen of 2½ years at £10-8-4 ea 20-16- 8

2 large Hogs 6-5 12-10

Library of Congress

33-6-8

Joseph Rai

1 Cow 16-13- 4

1 Calf 5

1 middling Hog 3- 2- 6

1 small do 16- 8

23-12- 6

129

Madame Eccyer

2 Draft Oxen at £20-16-8 ea 104- 3- 4

2 Oxen of 2 & 3 years 20-16- 8

3 Cows £16-13-4 50

1 Horse 10- S- 4

185- 8- 4

Hypolite Grignan

1 cow 16- 3- 4

16-3-4

Pierre Grignan

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4 Draft Oxen at £20-16- 8 ea 83- 6- 8

3 young do 10- 8- 4 ea 31- 5

6 cows 16-13- 4 ea 100

2 calves 3- ea 6

6 small Hogs 16- 8 ea 5

225-11- 8

Augustin Grignan

1 large Hog 6- 5

6-5

Louis Petel

1 large Hog 6- 5

3 middling do 9- 7- 6

15-12- 6

J. B. Le Borde

3 Draft Oxen at £20-16- 8 ea 62-10

2 Cows 16-13- 4 ea 33- 6- 8

1 Calf 3.

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10 large hogs £6- 5- ea 62-10

2 small do 16- 8 ea 1-13- 4

2 Horses 10- 8- 4 ea 20-16- 8

183-16 8

Joseph Ducharme

2 Draft Oxen at £20-16- 8 ea 41-13- 4

1 Cow 16-13- 4

4 large Hogs 6- 5 ea 25

9 middling do 3- 2- 6 ea 28- 2- 6

111- 9- 2

Pierre Charon

1 large Hog 6- 5

6-5 9

130

Pierre Ulrique

2 Draft Oxen at £20-16- 8 ea 41-13- 4

6 large Hogs 6- 5 ea 37-10

2 small do 16- 8 ea 1-13- 4

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80-16- 8

Francais St. Roc.

1 Mare 10- 8- 4

1 Young ox 10- 8- 4

20-16- 8

Baptiste Papin

1 Draft Ox 20-16- 8

20-16- 8

Joseph Latout

1 large Hog 6- 5

1 small ox 16- 8

7-1- 8

Francais Roi

1 Cow 16-13- 4

1 Middling Hog 3- 2- 6

19-15-10

Amable Grignan

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1 Bull of 2 years 10- 8- 4

10- 8- 4

Pierre Cochinneau

2 Draft Oxen at £20-16- 8 ea 41-13- 4

2 Cows 16-13- 4 ea 33- 6- 8

1 Horse 10- 8- 4

4 large Hogs 6- 5 ea 25

2 Calves 3 ea 6

116- 8- 4

Joseph Bouchie

1 draft Ox 20-16- 8

20-16- 8

André Lachaise

1 large Hog 6- 5-

2 small do at -16- 8d ea 1-13- 4

7-18- 4

Claude La Framboise

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1 Horse 10- 8- 4

10- 8- 4

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Jacob Franks

9 large hogs at £6- 5- ea £56- 5-

11 middling do 3- 2-6 34- 7- 6

1 calf 3-

5 horses 10- 8-4 31- 5

4 Draft Oxen 20-16-8 83- 6- 8

2 Cows 16-13- 4 16-13- 4

1 Young Ox 10- 8-4 10- 8- 4

1 Colt 3- 3

254-19- 2

Jean Baptiste Maranda

2 Young oxen £10- 8-4 ea 20-16- 8

1 draft Ox 20-16-8 20-16- 8

1 Large Hog 6- 5 6- 5

7 middling do 3- 2- 21-17- 6

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69-15-10

Total amount of Losses in Cattle £]2303-12- 6

Depredations committed by the Indians on the Crops estimated at 2710 dollars 677-10-

Total Loss sustained Currency £2981- 2- 6

In submitting the foregoing statement of losses sustained by the Inhabitants of this place, the court beg leave to remark, that they have had no means of ascertaining its correctness but from enquiries made amongst the Inhabitants and others who were supposed to have had opportunities of judging thereof. the result of those enquiries has induced the court to believe the statement correct. The valuation has been affixed by a committee appointed for that purpose by the court and is deemed fair.

signed A. Bulger Captain & President

“ R. Dickson Agt & Supt. Western Nations

“ Duncan Graham Capt. Ind. Department.

Green Bay 13 th Novr 1814

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MARTIAL LAW IN WISCONSIN.

A Proclamation .

Whereas it is necessary from the disturbed state of the Country, that Martial Law should be declared. I do by virtue of the power and authority vested in me, hereby proclaim Martial Law to be in force throughout the Country, from the date hereof—of which all

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officers Civil and military, and all persons whatsoever are to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Given under my hand in Fort McKay, Prairie du Chien the 31st Decr. 1814

(signed) A Bulger , Captain Commanding on the Mississippi.