

riviere. archange et tous la famille seporte bien. jai seulle-
mant a ajoutés que

je suis
Votre frér tres affectionne

Translation

Michilimackinac, May 29, 1778

My dear Brother: Since I wrote you by Mr. McBeath's vessel neither the *Archange* nor the *Angelica* have come in, so that I cannot say whether I shall send your men to Detroit or back to you. I have engaged Big Charlie to go as guide with Mr. Bennett to the Grand Portage. After that he is to sail with Mr. McDonald in the *De Peyster* until Mr. Bennett is ready to return, about the end of August. He is a man who knows the lake, and a good sailor besides. If you let him have anything in advance, let me know. I am to pay him £21 wages up to Sept. 1, also a shirt, a pair of leggings, and a brayet.⁵⁵ Of that I shall pay him 200 livres for going with Mr. Bennett to the Grand Portage and back as guide. The rest I shall charge to your account for the time he is working on the vessel. If it happens that Mr. Bennett needs 4 or 5 barrels of rum let him have it and I shall return it to you from here.

The Indians set out for Montreal today. I do not suppose there are left three barrels of rum in the place, besides what I have, which is not much.

I have decided to open a place at French River this year. It will facilitate the transport of my goods from Montreal by the Grand River. Archange and all the family are well. I have only to add that I am

Your affectionate brother

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JAMES STERLING AT DETROIT,
JUNE 4, 1778

The welcome Arrived Yesterday at daylight & the An-

⁵⁵ *Brayait* (*brayet*) was a term in use among the French Canadians to designate an article of clothing used by the Indians to cover the body from the waist to the knee. The term comes from the old French *brague*, still used in Normandy for *culotte* or *pantalon*. Clapin, *Dictionnaire*.