

time I could not have sent off Any Vouchers nor Accounts since the 24th of Dec^r 1777 it would have been Easy for me to have given up the old Vouchers & taken Others with Dif^t N^{os} According to the New^r form, as also to have had Others Signed Monthly for the Condemned Deficient, & lost (which formerly was done only every six Months,) but your Orders Arriving so late has made the task more difficult, however if you Judge proper still to have the Alteration made, I shall do Everything in my power & commence it when you think proper. The New form of Monthly return has in my Oppinion many Advantages Over any we yett have had, as it at one View shews the true State of the Provisions Store & strength of the Garrison.

With the last Months Accounts I send you a return of the Number of Persons which in all probability will have to be Victuled here from July 1778 to July 1779 Indians Excepted of whoes Numbers no person can well jud[g]e being some days above three hundred & Others not more than ten besides their receiving Chiefly flour & Pork a Calculation in all Species would not Answer for them. I have therefore in the return only said what Quantity I think may serve them without any mention of their Numbers.

There is a Vessell taken Into the Crowns Service at this Post, on the same Conditions as those at Detroit, therefore the Seamen are allowed a ration & a half per day & half a pint of rum & as there was none of the latter In Store I have been Necessiated to purchase a Barrell here at a high rate.

I have now to return you my Thanks for your Allowance of a Cooper & I hope it will not be displeasing to you that I Insert in the General Settlem^t for the last 6 Months two setts of receipts for his & my Rations commencing the 25th of December last. Your having Mentioned in Your Letter that the receipts for the Commissary & Coopers rations are to be transmited to you Every Six Months gives me reason to think I might draw them; if I should be rong in my Conjectures, I will make the Alteration on the first Notice, however Suffer me to Asure you that Even a Ration per