

first, as I have kept two large Canoes of the C^{os} here in order to take the rum that is in mine.

Old François is not yet arrived, but I expect him daily. I shall pay due attention to what you say respecting his going into the North. I'm sure he shall not with my consent & I dare say he will not without. I assure you that tho' I now supply several others, besides the great C^o, I have a certain inclination to forward their interest preferable to any other, & tho' I would not take any unfair means to prevent Gentlemen in that concern doing well, yet no profit should induce me to undertake any thing that could in the least hurt a concern where so many of my friends are interested. I'm determined never to undertake Canoes for any but them, & one Vessell shall be solely at their disposal, so far as they can make use of her. As to the Supplying of others with Rum, Corn &c^a after I have made sure of what will be wanted for the great C^o⁷¹ (as we now must term them for distinction sake) it can be a matter of no consequence to that concern, for if I did not do so others would. I'm therefore sure it would be rather pleasing than otherwise to my friends to hear I made money. I Received 240ⁿ from Major De Peyster for the Rum & Bisket taken by Mr Ainse from Roi, & the N.W.C^o has credit for it in their last years accounts the 28th of June. I Received from Amable Roi⁷² & La fevre £9ⁿ6ⁿ8 N.Y.C^y last Year which I omitted advising you off, charge me with that sum, it's all I have been able to collect on acc^t of you & your Brother John. Before Lieu^t Bennett left this I did what I thought necessary in order that your C^o at the Portage should still pass for what it actually is, the most respectable both as to proprietors & amount.

⁷¹ The first organization of the North West Company has heretofore been ascribed to the year 1779. See Gordon, *The North West Company*, 9 ff. This letter establishes that it had been founded at least a year earlier, and by implication indicates that it was formed two years prior to 1779.

⁷² Amable Roi (Roy) was a native of Montreal who engaged in the Northwest trade, married a daughter of Augustin Langlade, and settled at Green Bay, where he died about the beginning of the nineteenth century. Having no children of their own, the Rois adopted Louis Grignon, member of a well-known early Green Bay family, and left their property to him. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIX, 248.