

parrez pour Le Recevoir comme il y aura pas un moment
aperdre sans faire grand tort a ceux a qui je doit fournir
adieu mon cher frere

Translation

Michilimackinac, June 18, 1778

My dear Brother: I have just learned from Mr. Solomon⁷⁹ that my canoes have gone to your place, probably to deliver your bales and all my rum. I am told that I have 93 barrels of rum in the canoes and 9 barrels of spirits. Please deliver that to the bearer of this letter and take his receipt. There will still be 4 barrels of beef of mine, 2 trunks, some bales, and other things which you will send to me. You may keep one barrel of beef if you think best. You will do well to send me by these canoes all the peltries you have on hand, and be sure to count them in the presence of the guide.

The gentlemen of the North West Company brought up from Montreal in some of their canoes 5 barrels of rum and 24 barrels of spirits. Tell me if these were left with you. If they are there you may give them also to the bearer and anything else you may have for these gentlemen, provided that he can take it, if not, send what is left by the first vessel.

I hope that the *Mackinac* has got up, for as soon as the *Archange* arrives I shall send her with her load to you and I want a vessel all ready above the Sault to receive it as we cannot lose a minute without great wrong to the gentlemen whom I have agreed to supply. Goodby, my dear brother.

⁷⁹ Ezekiel Solomon was one of the earliest British traders in the Northwest, coming out to Mackinac from Montreal in 1761. He was here at the time of the massacre of the garrison in 1763, when he was taken prisoner, but was ransomed and returned to Montreal. In July, 1778, he signed the subscription made by Mackinac residents for a missionary at that place, and in 1779 he was one of the founders of the general store in which the Mackinac traders pooled their goods and activities. In 1784 he joined in creating a committee to regulate the trade of Mackinac and "dependencies." No certain information concerning his later career has been found, but from certain papers in the *Mich. Pio. Colls.* it seems likely he located at St. Joseph Island in Lake Huron upon the British evacuation of Mackinac in 1796. Information adapted from *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*.