

*Translation*

Michilimackinac, June 21, 1778

My dear Brother: I received your letter by the canoes.

I have only time now to say that it will be necessary to send back the *De Peyster* as soon as possible without waiting for the flour or anything else as she has her load and there is not a moment to lose without loss to the northern traders.

I am much mortified that you did not send Mr. Oakes's share of merchandise with that of the other gentlemen. One should never give offence in trade. To go to the other extreme, I mean to please everybody.

Now, as soon as the *De Peyster* arrives I beg you to put on board first all that then remains for Mr. Oakes at your place. It may be that these canoes in passing will take something before the *De Peyster* gets there. There should be 100 minots of lye hominy for Mr. Oakes according to the first account that I sent you, so I hope that you have that much. Not for a thousand francs would I have him disappointed.

I am expecting any day from Detroit by the *Angelique* 200 minots that I shall send you. You may therefore give out the 100 minots for Mr. Oakes even though you take it from the supply for some one else in case you have not enough. I shall send both the *Mackinac* and the *Archange* to the Sault so that Brulon can help to get the *Mackinac* up also, for it is absolutely necessary that she goes on. It will be too late to wait for the third trip of the *De Peyster* to send the flour and the rest of the rum for these gentlemen.

Robideau has deserted though I am quite sure he is in hiding somewhere. He is afraid of having to go north. Messrs. Holmes & Grant promised to send you a good carpenter for me provided you could let them have a man in his place for the north. If you have one I will give him a thousand francs. There is a sailor too that these gentlemen would send you if you could find a man in his place, and Robideau, I might have exchanged for him

Per Mr. Holmes