

the books you sent by Lamouche. You did right to stop him from trading when he had no license. I have warned the Major about him. As both boats must make the trip to the Grand Portage and as they will not be loaded, the freight you miss on Mr. Nadin's goods will not be a great loss. I would rather not make any more contracts with the traders until these troubles are over. There is too much risk, besides the blame one incurs. I might engage to supply provisions on commission to those who care to employ me in that way, with the assurance that I would do my best not to disappoint them. Merchandise is neither dear nor scarce as you have been told. The Major needed it for the Indians but that is all over now. Neither the *Mackinac* nor the *Archange* has come in yet. I am hoping to see one or the other today, now that the wind is fair.

I bought the bark you ordered, and had it stripped for Mr. McGill. You did right to keep the 99 barrels of rum. That is just what I would have told you to do. You have delivered them, no doubt, to the two canoes. I have not time now to make out the freight on your goods, but I dare say it will cost about 80 livres each piece, according to what I am told by one who has made some estimate on it. However, as my canoes will come back loaded that will fix the rate.

I have written you enough on the subject of Mr Oakes's corn in my letter of the 21st inst., and hope you gave it due attention. I notice what you write for Robideau and the provisions that you furnished for the guide Parisien.

The *Mackinac* is in sight now since I began to write. I shall send her back immediately with all the lye hominy I can gather up. As soon as she reaches you get her ready to go on up for I shall have the *Archange* set out again as soon as she comes in. Tell Messrs. Machard & Co. that I expect them here before they dispose of their peltries or pay any notes, since they wish to begin by the last equipment, according to the custom of the country.⁸⁴

⁸⁴ The custom referred to was that a trader should begin payment of his debts with the merchant who had supplied his last outfit of goods; whatever remained