

stocked, insomuch that it would not surprise me were goods sent from that Post to Detroit.

I cannot yet say anything certain to you about the prices of Furrs, but I am persuaded deer Skins have sold badly & I fear Beavers & Otters have had a tumble. I advise you strongly to change all your late fall & winter deer Skins for Raccoon & Pichoux,²⁸ but Foxes are really worth no more than 4/ York—a good Raccoon large size is better & two Raccoons or one Pichoux as they run of more value than a deer Skin, except it be a good red, very short [illegible], or parchment Buck.

Your friends of the Northwest are making a larger outfit this year than they did the last & are going to build a small vessell at the Portage—their great success last year enables them to undertake any thing & I make no doubt they will continue successful, which on some of their accounts I most sincerely wish.

It is generally thought that Sir Guy Carleton who is expected early to be our Governor will permitt small vessells of private property on the Lakes, should that be the Case, you will no doubt wish to have one, but it will be prudent to wait till his determination is known, & so soon as we do know it, you shall hear from us.

I hope you will push Barthe to convert every thing into Returns this Season, he says he intends it as well to pay you as us, the Balance he owes is very near to 70000^l Houses & Lands can never produce much benefit to Merchants & it may be the properest time to sell them before final determination of Government is known respecting the Posts; excepting a House for my business I would not wish to have any dead property in a country where for want of Courts of Justice, Tenures must be very insecure.

Your daughter Madeleine is in perfect health & when a proper opportunity offers It is my intention to fulfill M^{rs} Askins & your wishes by sending her up & I am pretty certain you will find her *bien entendue dans le menage* insomuch that I fancy you will not keep her many years

²⁸ This was the French-Canadian name of the red lynx (*lynx rufus*).