

in beavers on what he sold, and to make a reduction in the price of those articles he thought were too dear. He worked fairly well all that summer and part of the fall, but after that I heard that he was diverting my peltries to his own profit and had even sold some to Mr. Lafontaine.⁶⁰ I accused him of this, and he admitted doing something of the kind, but not as much as he had done. Seeing that he did not wish to continue, but was seeking some excuse to get his goods elsewhere, I asked him in February, 1785, to come in and settle his accounts with me. He said he would, but evidently had his own plans about doing it, for since then Mr. Largeau has been several times for a settlement and though Reah has not said anything he just kept putting it off. I then went myself, with Mr. Saffray as interpreter, and found several loads of peltries made up which had been procured by my goods and that he was preparing to take them to the Miamis (as he had done before). I asked for them. He said that if I would take the bad skins at full value (which was not our agreement), I had only to do so, but that if I would leave them with him for the purchase of goods he would surely pay me within two months' time. I took him at his word and let him have the peltries. This time has elapsed and much more, without seeing him. By Mr. Largeau, and others, I have demanded payment, but with no effect, his usual response in conversation being "No law here," and this has become proverbial in these parts, where they say

⁶⁰ Francis Lafontaine was engaged in the fur trade at Miamitown (modern Fort Wayne) as early as 1780. He was a great-grandson of Guillaume Dubord *dit* Lafontaine, born in France in 1625, who married there Catherine Guerard in 1670 and about ten years later migrated to Canada and settled at Champlain, where he was buried April 2, 1705. His descendant, the subject of this sketch, was born at Lanoraie, Feb. 23, 1757, and spent most of his active life in the fur trade of the Wabash Valley. There he consorted with a Miami woman and their son became a chief of the tribe. An interesting picture of Lafontaine's fur trade activities is given in the Journal of Henry Hay. It would seem from the information recorded in Denissen that later in life Lafontaine returned to civilization, making his home at Detroit. On Nov. 17, 1807, he married here Catherine Chabert, daughter of Francis de Joncaire de Chabert and Josette Chêne, and to them in the next few years five children were born. In 1802 Lafontaine had made a will giving his property to a son named therein; this instrument he subsequently revoked. He was buried at Detroit, Jan. 31, 1815. His widow afterwards married Ezra Younglove. Lafontaine was one of the men chiefly instrumental in stirring up the Indians to attack and destroy La Balme's expedition at Miamitown in 1780.