

and I shall try to prevent it in my own case by changing my location. It is my belief that we shall have peace, and free trade, according to the treaties. But wherever I go I shall do myself the honor of telling you, and of arranging so that what I send you shall be certain of delivery.

I hope that you will interest yourself in my affairs, trifling though they be, and especially in that which I have now narrated. For my part, I shall be diligent in serving you and in retaining your confidence.

I remain, Sir, Your very humble servant,

Lorimier⁶⁴

P.S. Allow me to add that the merchandise I gave Joseph Reah to sell was my own, that I paid him a commission, and that I had expressly forbidden him to give credit to the Indians for the said merchandise.

⁶⁴ Louis Lorimier was a notable figure in the West for almost half a century ending with his death in 1812. He was born at Lachine in 1748, and about the year 1769 accompanied his father to the Ohio country, where the two engaged in trade at the portage of the Miami and Maumee rivers. Here (at Pickawillany) had been struck, in 1752, the blow against the English traders and their red supporters which marks the prelude to the Seven Years' War. During the Revolution Lorimier was an active British partisan and his place, known as Lorimier's Station, became noted as a center of British-Indian activity. Lorimier married a Shawnee woman and acquired great influence over her tribe, as well as over the Delaware. In 1778 he and another Frenchman led a Shawnee war-party on a raid into Kentucky, when the exploit was performed of carrying Daniel Boone into captivity. In 1782 George Rogers Clark organized an expedition against the Shawnee which captured and razed Lorimier's storehouse, after which he seems to have established himself on a tributary of the Glauze. As a consequence of difficulties which are in part described in this letter, in the spring of 1787 he fled from his creditors, finding refuge in Spanish Louisiana. It will be seen by a subsequent document (*post*, 288-90) that Hugh Heward, acting as agent of the Miamis Company, followed him and seized the goods which he had carried to the Illinois country. For this act, Lorimier, in 1787, sued Heward for damages in the court of Cahokia. See *Ill. Hist. Colls.*, II, 298-99.

In Spanish Louisiana Lorimier embarked upon a new career of success and prosperity. He acquired much influence with the Spanish authorities, was made commandant of the Cape Girardeau district, and was instrumental in inducing many of the Shawnee and Delaware to remove from Ohio and Indiana to Spanish territory. Lorimier was twice married. His first wife, a half-blood Shawnee woman, bore the name Charlotte Pemanpieh Bougainville, from which fact the surmise seems permissible that she was a natural relative of Louis de Bougainville, Montcalm's chief of staff. She died March 23, 1808, and Lorimier subsequently married Marie Berthiaume, whose father was a gunsmith for the Shawnee and whose mother was a Shawnee woman. After the death of Lorimier his widow married an American settler, John Logan, who subsequently removed to Illinois and became the father (by another marriage) of General John A. Logan of Civil War fame. An extensive account of Lorimier's career is given by Houck in his *History of Missouri and Spanish Régime in Missouri*.