

Sum of £8000 yk real property. It is much more than we have—it is more than any man in business should keep from the circulation of his Trade and in the part of the Country where yours is placed the tenure of it is but uncertain—these Causes should induce you to part with at least one-half of it as soon as possible, not only as a relief to yourself & your Friends, but as a means of affording you the more time to attend to your mercantile pursuits.

We come now to speak of M<sup>r</sup> Barthe, whose affairs are in a miserable situation indeed—we mentioned in a former Letter that we had got from him this year no other returns whatever than the Furrs made at the Sault & his part of the general Store which it would seem satisfies you that we were not wrong in declining to answer for him to you the sum of £1100 yk which you wanted us to assume—had he sent us as you expected a Sum in Bills we should not have hesitated but the Case was otherwise & if he got paid of any Provisions you trusted him he employed the money to some other purpose. He indeed sent us a State of his affairs but it is by no means a clear one, all that we can gather from it is that he has put into the general Store about 42,000 [livres] which is entirly of Goods he has had from us which surely (exclusive of your recommendations) entitles us to their produce, and when we do get it, he will still remain largely our Debtor, yet we do not mean to drive him to despair, it is necessary to make a small Outfitt this year for the general Concern and we will not allow him to incur a penalty or be turned out of it with disgrace—we have even paid for him here more than 2000<sup>l</sup> which he fell indebted as one of the general Concern. We consider him as unfortunate in having embarked in a business he was unequal to manage & having met also several untoward accidents in the prosecution of it. He may nevertheless do well in a smaller line & as our I.T. may probably see him at Mich-ncke next Season we shall be glad to learn from him that he merits further support.

In writing to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton & Cartwright it is our fixed intention to desire that one of them shall go to Detroit next