

We cannot yet say whither Government will admitt of private Vessells but we may venture to assure you that the Transport will be put on a better footing than at present. Committees of the Council have been appointed by Lord Dorchester⁶⁹ to enquire into the Laws, Commerce, Police & Population of the Country & they are endeavouring to obtain information on these subjects so as to form a report for his Lordships perusal, you will readily judge that with respect to the upper Country Trade we shall not fail to lay every thing before them in the clearest & fullest manner.

We sincerely hope that the disturbance raised in the Indian Country by the Americans may be at an end, but we fear there will for many years to come be frequent interruptions to the quiet of the Indians which must constantly affect the Trade of your place, and we confess to you that with respect to the Wabash Trade we do not entertain favorable Sentiments were Peace even assured, the easy communication with new orleans & the proximity to the Americans are strong temptations to people of loose Principles when in debt to defraud their Creditors, and if prudence would permitt that Trade being given up, at least as to giving Credit, perhaps the general Returns would not be much inferior to what they now are, or if they were, better prices might be obtained for Peltries. The Subject merits consideration and from your knowledge & Interest therein we leave you to determine the result.

The bad Success of the Mich-ncke Company⁷⁰ this last year & the large quantities of Goods which will remain has brought the Interested to a determination of sending up few or any Dry Goods, but as Canoes must be sent up to

69 Lord Dorchester (Sir Guy Carleton) had but recently returned from England to Canada to take over from General Hope the governorship of Canada. For sketch of his career see *ante*, 83.

70 The Michilimackinac Company seems to have been organized about the same time as the North West Company, and to have numbered among its partners many of the members of the latter firm. Unlike the North West Company, however, it operated almost wholly within territory belonging either then or subsequently to the United States, in the regions of the Great Lakes, the Mississippi, and the upper Missouri. It continued in existence until 1811, when John Jacob Astor, founder of the American Fur Company, bought its interests and organized in its stead the South West Company. The latter, in turn, was reorganized in 1816 as the American Fur Company.