

Cooper and curer of provisions and after much trouble I have hired one as high as £70 p^r annum with maintenance and his advances & expences will be above £50, which is lost if an accident happens him he is for M^r Hamilton at Niagara who expects that Settlement will have a quantity of Pork, and to cure it well is of more use then your assemblies representations perhaps they may think M^r Hamilton has no right to do this.

I am you may well suppose, even had I no interest in it extremely sorry for your bad success in business, indeed the great fall in furs and the prospect of being still worse, will make a great change in the Situation of your places I am glad you have so little dependance on That Trade and that your other resourses of remittance may this year answer your expectations, as I am convinced M^r M^cGill has your interest as much at heart as me and will do any thing our own situation will admit of to serve you. I leave the business to him, and shall only remark that this Warr has occasioned such Losses & disappointments of which we have our share that it requires the exertions of ourselves & friends, to support that Credit we have always had.

I am sorry there was not a Peace concluded between the Americans & Indians, and I wish your Govern^r may have used his influence to accomplish it, I am certain either by treaty or otherwise the Americans will in a few years get the Posts. I would therefore recommend [you] to be prepared for it as well as you can, and if matters are settled between them & the Indians, and the posts amicably given up Leaving the Trade free to all, it will be no great injury to the Country nor you in perticular as the River S^tLawrence must be the water communication for all heavy articles and it would benefit by the Indoustry and ingenuity of the Americans, and as private property will be secured it will become of more value. I have done myself the pleasure of writing your Daughter Theresa by M^r Leith in answer to her polite & Sencible Letter of Last Octt^r M^r Leith has allso a Small packet for her, as you will receive Letters from M^r & M^{rs} Meredith & M^r Mercer, & Robertson it