

I beg you, the assurance of my gratitude for the interest you so kindly take in my business. In consequence, I have written to Mr. Abbott that I had sold some lands. I have been obliged to take a part of them back. I was afraid there would be trouble. That was why I did it, and therefore returned the money I had received. Now all my thoughts center in Detroit. I do now owe a single sou in America and I hope with a little time allowed, to close my business honorably.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your servant,
Vigo

If nevertheless, the gentlemen will accept lands, I could close the matter at once. Kindly give Madam, your wife, assurance of my respect, and many good wishes to all your family.

Mr. Simon, the bearer of this, having some business with the house of Mr. Todd in New Orleans, I have taken the liberty to refer him to you for any information he may need as he wishes to make some payment to Mr. Isaac Todd.

INDEBTEDNESS OF SIMON GONZALES

New Orleans 25th April 1798

(Copy)

Mr Isaac Todd

Sir Having just heard that a Spanish Trader of the name of Simon Gonzales,⁴⁵ who had been fitted out here by me some time since for Post Vincent, instead of returning to this place has proceeded to Detroit with a considerable Quantity of Peltries, I am under the necessity of applying to you to request your assistance in recovering his debt, in which the Estate of Mr Andrew Todd is one half Concerned, It amounts to 2786 $\frac{1}{8}$ Dollars with Interest from the 9th day of November 1796 till paid. I have forwarded his Note

⁴⁵ This letter illustrates interestingly the widespread ramifications of the western fur trade. Simon Gonzales was a resident of (or at least a trader in) Vincennes, who obtained his goods from Clark of New Orleans. The latter, to enforce payment of the debt due him applied to Isaac Todd in Montreal to have Gonzales seized in Detroit. Todd forwarded a copy of Clark's letter to Askin, who procured the arrest of Gonzales in Detroit in May, 1798, when he gave as security for the debt three tracts of land owned by him in Vincennes. See *post*, 143-44.