

*Nancy* or *Charlotte* which I learn had arrived before Mr R. McKenzie left Detroit.

Mr Todd was gone for New York before either of your letters reached me, and is not yet returned, but is expected in ten days or a fortnight; of course I have not had an opportunity of speaking to him on the chief subject of your last, Mr McGill however read me what you say to Mr T. on the subject of my having assumed the 2500 Livres recovered from Vallé<sup>10</sup> by Loisel.<sup>11</sup> I do not know how Mr Meldrum can swear to my having done so. when you & I had the last & final conversation on that subject I cannot remember that he was present, and from which conversation you conceive that I *did* assume the Debt as acting for Mr T. but was it not still subject to his approbation? The memorandum which you suppose I left about that matter must be what Mr Meldrum got at Mackinac from Mr Swan,<sup>12</sup> with whom the matter had much better have been settled seeing he knew the people in the Illinois, it is also odd that Mr Meldrum did not say any thing to Mr Todd on the subject in 1797 when he was at Mackinac & Detroit, nor did he say any thing of it this year till the very day that I was leaving Mackinac when there was no time to have it cleared up. In writing you last Septem<sup>r</sup> I mentioned the reasons for Mr T's refusing to pay the whole demand, which letter I wrote by his desire and he saw it before it was closed. if Mr Meldrum has any information regarding that business or proofs to bring forward of which Mr T. is ignorant I think he would do well to produce them, and if they are convincing Mr T. as you observe is surely the last man that would wish to have

<sup>10</sup> On the Vallé family of Ste. Genevieve, see *B. H. R.*, I, 290. The member here alluded to was probably Jean Baptiste Vallé, who was actively engaged in the fur trade and in other commercial activities. He married Jane Barbeau and lived to an advanced age. See Houck, *History of Missouri*, I, 349-50.

<sup>11</sup> Regis (or Registré) Loisel was a native of Canada, who came to St. Louis in 1793, where he married Helene Chauvin. He engaged actively in the fur trade of the Upper Missouri region, and about the year 1800 built a "4 bastion" fort in central South Dakota which is described with considerable care by Sergeant John Ordway of the Lewis and Clark expedition. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XXII, 135. When Louisiana was transferred from Spain via France to the United States, Loisel seems to have chosen to remain a subject of the first-named country. He died in New Orleans in October, 1804. See Houck, *History of Missouri*, II, 252.

<sup>12</sup> James Swan, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 375. For his report on the matter here discussed, see *post*, 216-17.