

penses of the suit. I bid for it myself up to 50 piastres and he got it for 55, more than one hundred per cent less than its value. In that way the debtor is ruined and the creditor gets nothing.

With respect to my business with Mr. Cassety, Mr. McIntosh told me about two years ago that he was going to Detroit and if I wished he would settle it for me, that I had only to make him an offer and he would present it to the gentlemen there. I showed him a letter from Mr. Cassety in which he acknowledged the receipt of a certain quantity of peltry, adding that he was going to send the beaver to Canada. I then offered 2000 acres of land to pay the balance, which Mr. McIntosh said was very generous and even too much. "Oh, well," he said to me, "I'm going up and have no doubt but that I shall settle it all right." On his return he told me that he had presented my offer to the gentlemen and they had accepted it. Some time after, we went together to look over the five lots of 400 acres by 7 that remained to me. From that day I have had nothing in settlement of that business except a writ of habeas corpus for which the suit begins next September, the same time as yours.

I have never refused to pay any account or note presented to me. Either I have paid it immediately or I have arranged for the payment, and I defy the most daring man on earth to convict me of the contrary. In the 29 years that I have been in trade I have never had a suit with any man. These are the first two, and it was necessary for them that the business should be in the hands of Mr. McIntosh, who has sworn my total ruin in presence of two traveling companions, one of them being Mr. Jean Baptiste Laplante.

You see, Sir, how impossible it has been for me to come to any terms with a man who seeks only to destroy me. Your generous offer of aid is most acceptable, and I beg you to do all in your power, being fully persuaded that you can do much and that my only dependence is in you for any peace of mind. On my part, I shall make any sacrifice to put an end to such a tangled state of affairs. I am the sworn enemy of litigation. Better far is a bad bargain than the most favorable lawsuit. I shall be eternally grateful to you for anything you may do to help me.