

sort of Titles were or would be considered as good. Of all in this Quarter whether French or English the two Commissioners have pronounced only two Valid so that even my Grant from the French Government in the year 1746, The Copy of which is under cover they consider as otherwise its true their Decission is not final untill Congress gives their approbation & though I hope for the best and would think no Gover[n]ment would ruin an old Settlement long improved yet I'm warned by a Friend and a good Judge how the Government of the United States Act, to prepare all the proof & support I can to my Claim and that even then perhaps I may fail. from the records of Lower Canada and those of Detroit which were ordered there by the Late General Haldemand something might be collected to strengthen our Claim to those you can have easy access & not only so but are perfect Judges what Documents are most requisite for me to produce in support of my Claims I send you herewith the Act of Congress made after the representation of the Gentleman we sent from this to Congress last fall¹⁸ Its true this Act seems to give us a better chance of succeeding but yet I'm warned to take care. for my own part I'm long since determined what what steps to take if your better Judgment does not point out any other, The best title I know for all Lands possessed prior to the 8th September 1760 when the capitulation was signed by the Marquis De Vaudreill & General Amherst is the 37th Article of that Capitulation which seems to require no other Title than possession and since that period fair honest purchases from Canadians with undisturbed possession on the part of the British Government during the whole time of their Government at Detroit the step as I before mentioned I meant to take was that If all mild means failed to have recourse to a trial in the Highest Court of the United States and if Cast [lost] there contrary to Treaty, I should suppose on a proper Memorial to our Government it would be looked into for as all the people residing or possessed of property in the limits of Detroit did not quit the English Government but the English Government quit them they were undoubtedly intitled to

¹⁸ The allusion is to the Washington mission of Solomon Sibley, for which see *ante*, 454-57.