

he has been so plagued with Indians, the house never empty of them from morning to night. Thank God they are now leaving. They have done much damage here, six or seven cattle killed and several sheep. It is a great loss for those who have had their cows killed, as they sell for forty dollars here.

I am thinking that the General will be surprised to see only four or five hundred men instead of the three thousand that he is expecting, or so Lt. Col. Boucherville³¹ said here, that Mr. D. had promised the Governor to take out at least three thousand. Mr. Dickson miscalculated in this, I think. It is not an easy matter to muster so many men, especially Indians, who must be gathered in from every quarter. However, Mr. D. says that he is taking out more than he promised. I do not know how true that is. He says that he might have taken many more Indians but that he had neither canoes nor provisions. You can imagine whether there has been any lack of provisions. I am told that the Indians have eaten three hundred bags of flour in three or four days, and I know that he has had sometimes five hundred minots of Indian corn here per day, not counting the pork grease, beef and fish, and sugar. Indeed, no one can have any idea of the expense in taking out a lot of Indians. The Indian store is empty and much of the merchandise has been sold, and all the guns, new and old, in the village. Still they are not satisfied. There is no end to their wants. They were here fourteen days and in my opinion they need not have remained more than four, for my dear John worked constantly so as not to delay them and had everything delivered in three days. I must say, too, that there has not been a day without rain since his arrival. I have never seen such weather since I have lived here. If you are having the same, so damp and foggy, it will be a bad time for the ague, I fear. Then they are so exposed in Detroit, by all accounts, that the people are unfortunate enough, without sickness.

³¹ Lieutenant Colonel Pierre Amable de Boucherville of the Eighth Battalion, Lower Canada Militia. He belonged to a notable Canadian family, and was head of the seignory of Boucherville. He was on the personal staff of Governor Prevost. For his report of his western journey, here alluded to, see *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XV, 315-16. He died in November, 1857, aged seventy-seven years. See Irving, *op. cit.*, *passim*.