

## No. 8

## PETITION OF THE INHABITANTS OF DETROIT TO THE INTENDANT OF NEW FRANCE, OCTOBER 21, 1726

TO MONSIEUR, THE INTENDANT OF ALL NEW FRANCE:

The inhabitants and traders of the post of Detroit humbly supplicate Monsieur the liberty they dare to take of representing to you, with all possible submission, that they find themselves excluded from the little ordinary trade with the Indians they had heretofore been allowed, and for which they had paid for the privilege by an exclusive right granted by Monsieur De Tonty to Messieurs La Marque, Chier, Nolan and Gatineau, all these associated together to enjoy traffic with the Indians.

What causes us a great wrong is, that we are deprived of the *douceurs* and articles we were in the habit of receiving from the savages for the subsistence of our families, for which most of us are charged very heavily; we are besides very far from the Lower Colony and other places from whence we can draw our necessities. Not finding ourselves any longer in a situation to collect or to lay up grain and other necessities of life, by the failure of all that which may supply them, and which they are unable to procure.

Not while they have the privilege of going to Montreal for necessities and other things for their families, they do not choose to take them of those who have the exclusive trade, for they cannot do it without the risk of coming to extreme poverty, and their families by the [a phrase not clear, but rendered] extreme dearness and high price put upon goods when they arrive. This takes away from your supplicating inhabitants and traders their ability to support the small traffic in which they have scarcely been able to subsist, and thus nothing escapes from the Company's hands.

It is true, however, that on the arrival of their canoe loads of merchandize, they engaged Monsieur Belestre, com-