

anything but provisions and merchandize, such as they use and no goods for trade without such permission. M. De Tonty has sold many permissions to said inhabitants for dealing with the Indians, but not being paid by the inhabitants, and perceiving that the post was ruined by their not furnishing a supply, he concluded to confirm his right in Monsieurs Gatineau and Gouin. This association, which was made for three years, having been broken up before its expiration by private difficulties between them and M. De Tonty, having no relation to said inhabitants, Monsieur De Tonty assigned his privilege to Sieurs De La Marque, Chiery and Nolan, with whom Sieurs Gatineau and Gouin are associated, in order, by the help of the partnership, to settle the business of the first Company, and to collect their debts—many of which remain unpaid.

The complaints of the inhabitants are reduced to these—they find themselves excluded from ordinary trade with the Indians heretofore granted; that this exclusion deprives them of many ameliorations they were accustomed to draw from the savages, whereon to subsist the families which most of them have—that, besides they are very far from the Lower Colony, and from places where they can procure necessities, and that they are wanting in all that contributes to the necessities of life—that they cannot themselves go to Montreal, and cannot procure them of those who have the exclusive trade, because the latter fix such exorbitant and ruinous prices upon the merchandize of which they have need.

Then upon the arrival of three (3) canoe loads from Montreal, offered at the most reasonable price, that it was done merely to prevent their complaint. That even this offer was not made them till there was no longer any time to accept it, because the Indian trade was nearly over, and finally that the Indians themselves are dissatisfied with this exclusion, being forced to take goods at two (2) places only when heretofore they had a choice among 20 or 30 establishments.