

To do away with these complaints, it is only necessary to assume that neither Monsieur De Tonty, or any of those who held rights under him, have hindered the inhabitants of Detroit from going to Montreal, to seek provisions, utensils, goods, or any articles for their own use; neither have we brought such goods for them.

What really hinders them is, they are not in a condition to do it, being unable to get credit at Montreal, on account of debts which they do not pay. The privilege of M. De Tonty is restricted to goods for traffic.

They are to bring whatever is necessary for private use, but if they do not, and are obliged to purchase of respondents, it is not just that they should claim them at Montreal prices, since it costs us heavy sums to transport goods to Detroit, and it is natural to have a profit above the price, on account of risk.

We have never hindered the inhabitants in their dealings with savages, in such articles as they raise from the soil, and this is the only trade that should be allowed them. They are thus obliged to cultivate their lands, and sustain the establishment of the post. It is only to their idleness they can impute the want of grain and provisions. Their lands are well situated, and produce abundantly, not only what is necessary to life, but wherewith to deal with the savages.

If they did not neglect cultivation, we can safely assert, that if M. De Tonty had not the exclusive privilege of trade, it would be necessary to prohibit it to the inhabitants, because, having the resource of traffic, they would abandon the cultivation of the soil. There is no other proof necessary of the excessive scarcity of grain than this: wheat is sold at 20 to 25 "livres" the "minot," in place of 10 to 12 livres; Indian corn 15 to 18 livres; tobacco 40 to 50 sous the pound; eggs 20 to 25 sous the dozen; onions 5 livres per hundred; a cow 100 livres, and a calf 30.

If the inhabitants were inclined to cultivate their lands, would they not be in a condition to give provisions to the