

voyageurs and Indians at a more reasonable rate, and also of enriching themselves? Instead of this, if they have the trade they ask for, they will continue to neglect the soil. We shall thus be compelled to abandon the post, and they also will be obliged to leave it, for want of provisions. Besides, they are not in a condition to do the trade they desire, since they owe more at Montreal than they can pay, and consequently can have no more credit there. They would be obliged to purchase of voyageurs, from whom they could obtain goods only at ruinous prices, should their demands be granted. It is merely a supposition on the part of the inhabitants, that the price of respondent's goods is excessive. *Sieur Gatineau* is ready to testify, by the statement of a trader, named *Perthier*, of *Detroit*, that he has bought powder of us at 40 sous the pound, when it was sold at *Montreal* at 30; molletor at 110 sous the yard; knives of the trade, at four (4) livres 10 sous the dozen, and thus of other merchandize delivered 300 leagues from *Montreal*, encountering the risks of the voyage.

The *Sieur Gatineau*, in the presence of *Monsieur Belestre*, at the meeting of the inhabitants, and of *Father Bonaventura*, did nothing but report the previous offer of necessary goods, which was not done to prevent complaints. He made the same offer on his arrival at *Detroit*, and they had time to accept them. The statement signed by *Perthier*, taken two months before said meeting, is a proof that he had given said *Perthier* goods at the same price he would have given them to all others. The dissatisfaction of the Indians is also an allegation without foundation, because the inhabitants cannot purchase goods of traffic except of voyageurs, and they cannot deal with the savages at prices below what voyageurs themselves do. Thus the Indians will always find it more to their advantage to buy of first hands. Even when it shall be true that the savages actually complain, we might then conclude that the inhabitants suggested the discourse to the Indians, who did nothing but report it against their own interests.