

to the Service & disadvantage to trade. This is a point I shall endeavor to settle before I avail myself of my leave you may please to grant me & I shall settle every other matter in the best order for whoever I may leave to command. The matter of pleasing the Indians without any very extraordinary expence to Government may be easily acquired by a person possessed of any degree of patience and activity Hitherto I have entrusted no one thing to others which the absence of the Superintendent and his train have facilitated. I should therefore be sorry that for want of my usual activity I should leave the Indians any room for complaining, which will be the case if the Commanding officer does not see things with his own eyes I mean at this post where I have always been sure to see every individual satisfied I have not received a line from your Excellency nor from any one in office this year no vessels as yet being arrived from Niagara, every other year they had made their second trip before now.

No canoe has yet arrived for the King, not even the one which Mr Langlade left at the Lake of the Two Mountains last fall.

The weakness of this Garrison (as the men from Niagara were not arrived) prevented my sending more than five men with Lieutenant Bennet<sup>1</sup> to which I added seven Canadians. I hear that they were cast on the rocks on Lake Superior but lost nothing but ammunition and provisions. I have sent off a fresh supply,

I have the honor &c

(Signed) AT. S. DE PEYSTER.

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<sup>1</sup>Lieut. Thomas Bennett, of the 8th foot, was dispatched to the Grand Portage, at the west end of Lake Superior, to settle differences among the Indians there and to arrest any "ill affected or suspected persons resorting there" (*Mich. Pion. Coll.*, ix., p. 356). The traders of the Northwest Company were themselves not above suspicion of leaning to the American interest (*ibid.*, p. 552).—ED.