

arrive at St Joseph's until the second day of December where they found Mr Louis Chevalier who had been twenty two days from Mr Hamiltons little army which passed near the pays plat¹ before he left it that he le Chevalier was informed there that Gebease² the Priest had been at the Post Vincent [Vincennes] & at the Ouia [Fort Ouatenon]³ with a party of rebels & obliged 600 inhabitants to swear Allegiance to the Congress &c & that by the best accounts he could get the rebels at the Illinois did not exceed three hundred men who were ill provided.

The above news of Mr Hamiltons having got so far the start being told to the Indians at the grand river, where Langlade had raised about eighty they declined to follow at so great a distance on which Mr Langlade set out for his post at La Baye & Gautier finding that Mr Chevalier had already taken the few Pottawatamia which could be raised at that advanced season to Mr. Hamilton, set out for his post on the Mississippi carrying with them Belts & Speeches to exhort the Indians to be ready in the Spring if called upon Your Excellencys answer to my letter of the 21st Sept. (thro L^t Col Bolton) is just come to hand.

I have the honor &c

(Signed) A. S. DE PEYSTER.

P. S.—I should be glad to know if your Excellency will please to allow the officer any pay for his laying out and directing the route at the Portage.⁴

¹ *Pays plat* (Fr. for flat country) was frequently applied to portage plains, by the French. In Long's *Voyages and Travels* (London, 1791), the term is applied to the portage of two miles between Lake St. Martin and Muddy lake in Manitoba. The particular *pays plat* referred to by De Peyster was the portage between the Maumee and Little river, one of the sources of the Wabash.—ED.

² Father Pierre Gibault, the French priest at Kaskaskia, who undertook, on behalf of Clark, a mission to Vincennes in July, 1778, and succeeded in inducing its inhabitants to declare for the Americans.—ED.

³ Now Lafayette, Ind.—ED.

⁴ Referring to Lieutenant Bennett's expedition to the Grand Portage, at the west end of Lake Superior. Wherever the word "Portage" is used in these letters, without specific mention of locality, reference is had to the Grand Portage. The Grand Portage post was at the head of a bay on the