

## GAUTIER TO DE PEYSTER.

[Translated from the French by Grace Clark.]

*To Monsieur Major Depeyster.*

MONSIEUR,— Having learned that Governor Hamilton had wintered at the post,<sup>1</sup> in order to continue his expedition, in the spring, I started to give him assistance by the Mississippi with 208 men puants, feauxavoines [Folles Avoine], Renard Outawa and Sauteux; after having paid all the necessary expenses I descended the Mississippi as far as the River la Roche which was the 4<sup>th</sup> of april where I found a small number of Sacques and Sieur la main Capie<sup>2</sup> to whom I began to speak for you at which he Stopped his Ears and would hear nothing, even mocking at your threats that you made last autumn to the Sacques and Renards, that if you should see that they were with the Bostoniens you would cut off their Traders; he answered me, he and all the others, that they had their arrows for their support and they were not at all anxious about that. Not satisfied with his insolance they made me release 120 men, and I believe if they had been strong enough they would have seized me and given me over to the Bostonias. I continued on my way with the rest of my party up to where I had an idea as to [I would meet] the Sauvoix [Sauteux] and Sacques of Ouisconsin, who were all there having arrived the 6<sup>th</sup>. I found none of your children, but I found some Bostonien Sacques. They rejected me after I had spoken to them on your part, having received the Words of the Rebels and even threatened to inform the Bostonnais of my Measures. At the very moment of this parley the news arrived that Governor Hamilton was taken.<sup>3</sup> This checked the grumbling in my little camp, and still the puants and the feauxavoines assured me that they would never forget their Father and that they would die rather.

For [by] that time it was necessary to release the 7 [men]

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<sup>1</sup> Vincennes.— Ed.

<sup>2</sup> Apparently identical with La Main Cassée, mentioned in Gautier's journal, *ante*, pp. 106, 110.— Ed.

<sup>3</sup> Clark captured Hamilton at Vincennes, Feb. 25, 1779.— Ed.