

Mr. Langlade arrived last night and informed me that on his arrival at Labaye he received an order from L^t Gov^r Hamilton acquainting him that he wintered at Post Vincent therefore required of him and Gautier to join him early in the spring by the Illinois River. That he accordingly set out with some Indians & reached Milwackie¹ where [where] he received accounts of Mr. Hamiltons being taken, when the Indians disheartened would proceed no further. The enclosed Letter from Gautier will give your Excellency an account of his expedition. Mr. Langlade assures me that a Canadian named Benclo at the head of twenty horsemen is traveling through the Town and [towns of the] Sakis Country to purchase horses from [for] Mr. Clark telling the Indians that they will be with three hundred men at Labaye soon. But Mr. Langlade rather believes that they mean to transport themselves to Detroit. The Indians were so much divided that it was not possible to take Benclo and his party.

He was informed by a man who came from the Illinois that the Virginians then [there] did not exceed sixty men, that they were mostly in bad [health] the last Fall with the Maladie du Pays² but were taking [talking] of a great reinforcement.

The Canadians who want to return to this Post have leave on taking the Oaths not to serve against the United States. Clarke assures them that he will be here nearly as soon as themselves none are yet arrived.

I don't care how soon Mr. Clarke appears provided he come by Lake Michigan and the Indians prove staunch and above all that the Canadians do not follow the example of their brethren at the Illinois who have joined the Rebels to a man. I am in hopes however that their connection at Montreal will be a check upon them.

If I had armed vessels I could make them constantly coast

¹ In Gautier's letter of April 19, just preceding this, and enclosed with it to Haldimand, it is shown that Gautier went over the Fox-Wisconsin water-course and down the Mississippi as far as the mouth of the Rock; and then returned to Green Bay by the same route, on learning of Hamilton's capture. Langlade took the lake-shore trip without Gautier.— Ed.

² Home-sickness.— Ed.