

Lake Michigan to awe the Indians and prevent the Rebels building boats, there is a small sloop here as already reported but no sailors nor will my present garrison admit of any detachment, it not being by the one half sufficient to do the necessary duty here. I shall allow the Traders to come to this Post, but if things do not greatly alter I will not allow one to go the Labay rode.

The Sakis and Reynards seems to be easy about the matter as appears by Gautier's Letter but they will soon open their eyes, if it is possible effectually to restrain that trade on that head as well as how to act in case Detroit is taken, is what I hope I shall receive your full instructions about by a light Canoe. If Detroit should be taken it is evident we have but a dismal prospect, however what can be expected from two subdivisions shall be done, I think I can with propriety call my handfull by that name, when a part are employed at the Canon having nine pieces of Ordnance & only two Artillery men.

I have sent to Sanguina to endeavour to secure six hundred Bushels of Corn for the Indians without which our flower will run short by the fall of the year.

I have the honor &c

(Signed)

A. S. DE PEYSTER.

P. S. Give me leave to assure your Excellency that nothing can be expected from the Indians without the Troops to head them.

DE PEYSTER TO HALDIMAND.

MICHILMACKINAC, 2^d May 1779.

SIR,—

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The season here has been very open so that we had reason to expect arrivals from the grand River in the Lake Michigan some time past, but as yet can neither hear of Trader or Indian being at hand. Some Squaws who went at about forty miles from hence to visit their friends, returned with the news that the Virginians were building Boats near Milwaukee & that they had sent belts which were accepted by the Ottawas and Chippaways requesting of them to remain