

LIEUT. GOVERNOR SINCLAIR¹ TO BREHM.MICHILIMACKINAC 29th Octr 1779. 2

DEAR BREHM,—As this may be the last opportunity that will offer this season, I beg leave to trouble you with some things I wish the General to be acquainted with early enough to know His Excellency's Pleasure in the Spring respecting all or any of them.

Finding the Disposition of the Indians in Lake Michigan very wavering & several Depots of Corn in the rivers there, I sent on the 21st Inst. the Sloop "Felicity" with a carefull man Mr. Robinson as Pilot for the Lake two Canadians well acquainted with the Rivers, & Mr. Gautier, Intrepreter, with some small presents for the Indians, directing them to purchase all the grain Grease & Provision in that country, on the credit of the Merchants & Traders here & to use that of Government if necessary, that where they met with refractory disaffected persons they were to seize upon the corn

¹Patrick Sinclair, in October, 1758, entered the British army as ensign, in the second battalion, 42d Highlanders. In 1759, he was wounded at Guadalope, West Indies. Being ordered to America, he became a lieutenant, July 27, 1760. Because of his regiment being ordered back to the West Indies, in October, 1761, he exchanged into the 15th foot, serving in America until that regiment returned to England, in 1768. Being promoted to a captaincy, April 13, 1772, Sinclair asked for, but failed to obtain, permission to return to America; the following year, therefore, he retired. In 1775, he received the appointment of lieutenant governor and Indian superintendent of Michilimackinac and dependencies, but upon landing in New York was taken a prisoner; summoned, August 3, before the provincial congress on charge of being commissioned to employ the Indians of the Northwest in coercing the colonies; sent to Long Island as a paroled prisoner, and in March, 1776, allowed to return to England. In the summer of 1779, he was again sent to take charge of the post of Michilimackinac, and arrived at his destination October 4, succeeding De Peyster, who in turn succeeded Hamilton, at Detroit. Sinclair served at Michilimackinac until 1782. April 1, 1780, he was commissioned captain in the first battalion, 84th foot (Royal Highland Emigrants), and June 12, 1782, became major. He rose through successive grades, until July 25, 1810, when he was promoted to be lieutenant general. He died in 1820, at that time the oldest officer of his rank in the army.—ED.