

PAPERS FROM THE CANADIAN ARCHIVES—1778-1783.

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The following are copies of papers in the Haldimand Collection, secured from the historical archives of the Dominion of Canada, at Ottawa. The originals are in the British Museum, London, England. Where there are omissions, the matter stricken out has no bearing upon Wisconsin history.

MAJOR DE PEYSTER<sup>1</sup> TO GENERAL CARLETON.<sup>2</sup>

MICHILIMACKINAC 30th May 1778.

SIR,—I have just received a letter from Mr. Langlade<sup>3</sup> acquainting [me] that his affairs goes on very slow at La

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<sup>1</sup> Major Arent Schuyler de Peyster, then British commandant of Michilimackinac and dependencies. He was born in New York city, June 27, 1736, the son of Pierre Guillaume de Peyster; his mother was Catharine, sister of the famous Peter Schuyler. June 10, 1755, he entered the 8th (or King's) regiment of foot; and, after serving in various places in North America, was in 1774 placed in command of Michilimackinac. He displayed marked ability at this important post, in keeping the Western Indians in line with British interests during the first half of the Revolutionary war. When, in 1779, Lieut. Governor Hamilton was captured at Vincennes, by George Rogers Clark, De Peyster was sent to succeed Hamilton in command of Detroit. He remained there until 1784, having now risen to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Afterwards, he went to Great Britain, where he became colonel, being in command at Plymouth, Dumfries and other stations. He had the honor, during the French revolution, of training the 1st regiment of Dumfries volunteers, of which Robert Burns was a member. It was to De Peyster, himself a veteran rhymster, that Burns addressed the lines, beginning, "My honor'd Colonel, deep I feel," etc. Colonel De Peyster died at Dumfries in November, 1822. A copy of his *Miscellanies*, wherein he recorded, in prose and verse, some of his experiences in the Northwest from 1774 to 1779, is in the possession of Lyman C. Draper, of Madison, Wis.; there are but few other copies now in existence. Cf. Butterfield's *Washington-Irvine Correspondence*, pp. 417, 418.—ED.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Guy Carleton, K. B., governor of Canada, 1774-1778.—ED.

<sup>3</sup> For material on Charles Michel de Langlade, see *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, vii., pp. 123-187, 405-408; viii., pp. 209-223.—ED.