

Forces in America, that this would satisfy him and make him easy, and nothing else would: and he proposed to Mr. Potter to go to England to make these Proposals to the English Government in his behalf, and to let him know in the speediest Manner possible the success of his Negotiation, for that, if he did not meet with success he would immediately upon receiving notice of his Disappointment, quit his Post and retire to the French towards the Missisipi and enter into the service of the French where he was sure to meet with better Encouragement: That he had lately had a Letter from one Hopkins,¹ who is now in the French Service in one of their West Indian Islands: That in that Letter Hopkins had offered him great Encouragement if he would embrace the French Interest and stir up the Indians against the English; That he was sure he should get great Riches and be a great Man if he was to go over to the French, and therefore he was resolved to do so if the English Government did not comply with his Proposals; and that he advised Potter to do the same as it would be much for his Interest; That upon Potter's expressing some surprise and Indignation at this Proposal, as being contrary to his Duty and Conscience, Rogers told him he was a fool; that he had hitherto taken him for a man of sense and his Friend that would join in any Scheme to serve him; but that now he found he was mistaken; But he said that for himself he was resolved to do so if his Proposals were not complied with; and he added that if he did take that step and retire among the Indians and French, he would not go empty handed, but would in that Case get into his Hands, all the Goods he could both from Traders and others, by right or wrong,

¹ Joseph Hopkins, of Maryland, had formerly served with the 18th regiment, and later was captain of an independent corps, but a short time before the date of this letter had joined the French, being a colonel in St. Domingo. A letter from him to Rogers, with whom he had always been intimate, is given in *N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, vii., p. 993, under date of April 9, 1766. Lord Hillsborough, then English secretary of state, refers in a letter of March 12, 1768 (*Ibid.*, viii., p. 36), to "the wicked and infamous behaviour of Rogers and his correspondence with Hopkins." The intrigue, if successful, would have placed Mackinaw, the gate of the Northwest trade, into French hands.—ED.