

ROBERTSON TO MATTHEWS.

MICHILIMACKINAC 1st Novr. 1783.

SIR,—You will be pleased to lay the annexed Letter from Mr. McBeath¹ to me before His Excellency the Commander in Chief, who, I hope will comply with the request as it may be the means of lowering the exorbitant prices of Goods at this Post.

Mr. McBeath will set out early next Spring for the Mississippi, which I have already mentioned to Col. Hope, the Intention, and I have great hopes he will succeed in a great degree, of keeping those Indians from coming here, which must be a considerable saving to Government.

He wishes much to have Mr. James Grant here early, in order to do his Business while absent.

I am Sir your most obedient and most humble Servant,

DAN'L ROBERTSON

Capt. 84th Reg't.

Capt. Mathews.

ROBERTSON TO BREHM.

MICHILIMACKINAC 20th April 1783.

DEAR SIR,—This Climate is preferable to any part of Canada, I have been at, and of course very healthy—

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Trade is not carried on here to my Ideas, nor to the General Satisfaction of the Traders, the Posts are not half supplied with Goods and the principall given to Individuals only, which cause *discontent* & room to ask among the Indians as likewise an excuse to come so often to this place.

Now, Sir, I mean to oblige every Wintering Trader to give Security for his good behaviour, his properly supplying the Indians & his keeping to the place allotted him by his Pass. This I think will keep the Indian to his Hunting, for they are all fond of seeing a quantity of Goods. Liquor is their Ruin. This is, as yet, an expensive place and as I

¹George McBeath, a trader. See *Wis. Hist. Coll.*, xi., index, for other letters bearing on his expedition to Prairie du Chien.—Ed.