

I say nothing of your interests, but you may count upon my doing with pleasure everything that is necessary for your advantage. After this, however, I will repeat to you once more that you can not exercise too much application, in order to succeed in everything that I shall desire of you for the interests of the King's service. If your affairs could allow your brother to be with you next spring, I would be greatly pleased; for, as he is a very intelligent youth, who could be of great service to you, he might also be of great utility to us.

I beg you to mention nothing that you may guess of our designs, but to evade all that.

1686 (ca): ACCOUNT OF DETROIT POST.

[Extract from a letter written apparently to Count de Pontchartrain, then intendant of finance in France. The original MS. is in the MSS. division of the library of Congress, Washington.]

To give you an idea, Monsieur, of what the Detroit is, in case you have none, you must know that it is a River which is twenty-five Leagues long, into which Lake Huron discharges its waters, to fall into Lake Erie. About Six Leagues from the latter, there is another lake in this River, called Lake St. Claire, which is ten Leagues in length and about fifteen in width. It is well stocked with fish, as is also the River, which is on the forty-first degree of latitude and runs from the Mouth of this lake to Lake Erie, from North-Northeast to South-Southwest. The Land on the North [*sc.* West] side extends toward the Miamis, where is a River by which one goes in Six days to that country whence one can easily reach the Mississippi.¹ That to the South [*sc.* East] extends to Toronto,² a mainland

¹"The Miamis" refers to the new abode of these savages, at the river St. Joseph. From that river access was gained to the Mississippi by a portage (near the present South Bend, Ind.) to the Kankakee, the southern branch of the Illinois river.—ED.

²Toronto (Tarento, Toronto) was an early appellation of both Lake Simcoe and the Severn river; the name was also applied to the portage-