

started for Detroit. If the French there should take any part in the difficulties between the different tribes, there would be more reason than ever to fear for the safety of the French at Michilimackinac.

Notwithstanding this news, we all resolved to proceed together to Michilimackinac. For my own part, I considered it quite as safe to risk being detained as a hostage by the savages, as to incur their displeasure, which I should most certainly do if I attempted to go to Montreal. Besides, I believed that my presence would serve as a restraint upon the savages, and thus be some security to the French.

On our arrival at Michilimackinac, on the 9th of August, every one seemed rejoiced. The savages declared that they were now convinced that their father Onontio would not abandon them; that, whatever might happen at Detroit, the French would always be secure here. Indeed, they said they did not believe Onontio had anything to do with the affair at Detroit, since, though he had knowledge of it, he had sent them good promises, and the missionary had returned to them, in spite of all the dangers of the way.

The French have been actively engaged in fortifying this establishment for the safety of themselves and their effects, as no one can depend on the word of the savages, since the chiefs, however good their intentions, are not masters. For our better security, M. Arnaud has found it necessary to make presents to all the savages. In this he has acted for the public good, and deserves to be repaid. He will present his bill to yourself and the intendant. You are not ignorant how zealous M. Arnaud is for the public good, especially when he knows that his services will meet your approval. His generosity ought not to go unrewarded. M. Menard, who came up with me from Montreal, will also present you with his bill of expenditures in the service of the king.

It is not just that these two men should be obliged to defray the expense of presents to the savages; especially as the King in these troublous times has provided no presents with which to settle difficulties. I have myself paid the value of a score of beavers, for services. You will permit me to say that, as I