

of his company for the King's service, they would tell him curtly that they should not do it, and to let him do it himself. That would, verily, be a fine example for the French troops.

But, My Lord, though it were possible to teach [these] people subordination the one to the other, I believe sound policy would forbid it; and it appears to me that instructing the Indians in discipline would be procuring for that Colony the greatest misfortune that can possibly overtake it. For, their weakness consists in the trifling amount of discipline among them; and of what would they not be capable had they absolute chiefs? As these people have no other profession than arms, they would soon render themselves masters of this country. I am persuaded, My Lord, that when Mr. de Lamothe proposed to you the formation of Indian companies, he knew very well that it would not succeed, and his motive therein was only to derive some benefit by the funds which would be appropriated for these companies, either by securing the whole, or at least three-fourths, thereof.—*N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, ix, pp. 823, 824.

1708: SUMMARY OF AN INSPECTION OF THE POSTS OF DETROIT
AND MICHILIMACKINAC, BY D'AIGREMONT.

[Dated Quebec, Nov. 14, 1708; translated from Cass transcripts from Paris archives, and published in Sheldon's *Early Hist. Mich.*, pp. 280-294.]

M. d'Aigremont left Niagara, June 29, 1708. He sailed along the north coast of Lake Erie, a distance of ninety leagues, and arrived at Detroit on the 15th of July. He remained at Fort Pontchartrain of Detroit nineteen days,¹ and became con-

¹ Note on original MS.: "La Motte contends that this sojourn was not sufficient to gain any correct knowledge of the country. He says that during his stay, they did not have two hours' conversation together, and that M. d'Aigremont made secret inquiries in regard to him, a course well calculated to call forth discreditable remarks from the French and savages."