

vinced during his stay that M. la Motte Cadillac, who commands there, is generally disliked by the French and savages, with the exception of three or four of the former, whom he employs in his secret trade, and whom he influences more than the others. This hatred is in consequence of the tyranny which he exercises over the entire settlement. Among the many instances which came under his notice, are the following:

La Motte requires of a blacksmith, named Parent, for permission to work at his trade, the sum of six hundred francs and two hogs heads of ale; and the obligation to shoe all the horses of M. la Motte, whatever number he may have, though at present he keeps but one. Of a gunsmith named Pinet, he requires three hundred francs a year, and the repairing of twelve guns per month, which makes one hundred and forty-four a year. Estimating this work at one pistole¹ per gun, M. la Motte draws from the work of these men, seventeen hundred and forty francs.² Evidently this state of things cannot last long, for they will be obliged to leave Detroit.

M. la Motte has caused a windmill to be erected, in which he takes the eighth minot³ as toll, while others take only the fourteenth. He gives for his reason, the great cost of the mill.⁴

M. d'Aigremont caused the valuable lands at Fort Pontchartrain to be measured, and found three hundred and fifty-three roods⁵ of it in all. La Motte has one hundred and fifty-seven; the French inhabitants, all together, have forty-six; and the

¹The pistole was a French money of account, having the value of ten livres.—Ed.

²Note on original MS.: "M. La Motte says that he made agreements with these workmen at Montreal, when they were in no wise under his control; that some time after their arrival at Detroit, they themselves desired a different commission—the very one of which they now complain. Besides, the taxes that he requires of them are not new, the company of the colony having used the same prerogative."

³The minot is an old French measure of capacity, equivalent to 1.11 Winchester bushels.—Ed.

⁴Note on original MS.: "This reason of M. la Motte's deserves attention; yet one does not feel quite satisfied with it; he appears too covetous."

⁵The context would indicate that "rood" here refers to the usual French unit of measure, the arpent (see p. 2, *ante*).—Ed.