

Hurons one hundred and fifty. The one hundred and fifty roods of La Motte have been broken up by the soldiers and savages, nineteen roods of which belonged to the company—so the cultivation of it has cost La Motte nothing.

There are but twenty-nine of the inhabitants of Detroit who have taken ground-plots within the fort, where they have built small log-houses, thatched with grass. The whole number of the French settlers is sixty-three, thirty-four being traders.<sup>1</sup> It is certain that if M. la Motte had not introduced the trade in brandy, but very few of the traders would remain, and no more would go there. Brandy and ammunition are the only profitable articles of commerce to the French, the English furnishing all others.

The savages make great complaints against M. la Motte; they say plainly that if he remains there they will not settle at Detroit. They demand the lieutenant, M. d'Argenteuil, as commandant. This man has much influence among them, but has little management. The savages promise great faithfulness to the king.

In order to prevent the disturbances which would arise from the excessive use of brandy, M. la Motte causes it all to be put into the storehouse, and to be sold to each in his turn at the rate of twenty francs per quart. Those who will have it, French as well as Indians, are obliged to go to the storehouse to drink, and each can obtain, at one time, only the twenty-fourth part of a quart.<sup>2</sup> It is certain that the savages cannot become intoxicated on that quantity. The price is high, and as they can only get the brandy each in his turn, it sometimes happens that the savages are obliged to return home without a taste of this beverage, and they seem ready to kill themselves in their disappointment.

M. la Motte has bought of four individuals one hundred and four quarts, at four francs a quart, and sold it at twenty

---

<sup>1</sup>For mention and sketches of early Detroit settlers, see *Jes. Relations*, lxvii, p. 334; lxix, 245-277, 306-310; lxx, 21-77, 305-309.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup>"Quart," as here used, is a misleading translation: the old French term *quart* indicates "a small cask, containing not a quarter, but about half as much as a cask of ordinary size" (Littré).—Ed.