

will take possession ; but that is not to be feared—it being more advantageous to them that we should incur the expenses and let them reap the benefit, as they now do. The Indians are very willing to make use of the goods of the English, but they would not suffer the English to take possession of their lands, even for the purposes of trade.

The former interpreter at Detroit, brother of the secretary of M. Vaudreuil, has been discharged. His successor is much better—he is an upright man.

After having remained nineteen days at Detroit, M. d'Aigremont started for Michilimackinac, August 3<sup>d</sup>, and arrived there on the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same month. Michilimackinac is one hundred and thirty leagues from Detroit. Here he remained four days, during which time he observed that this is the advance post of all Canada ; the most important, as well for its advantageous position, as for the commerce that might be made there. It is the rendezvous and highway of all the nations of Lake Superior, and the entire upper country. If the nations wish to make war upon each other, the Outawas who inhabit Michilimackinac would be capable of preventing them, and might be the mediators in their differences, as has been the case in the past.

This post is inaccessible to the most powerful enemies of the Outawas, who are to the South, and are not boatmen. The fish are very good, and very abundant. The land is not very good, but the savages raise from it enough Indian corn for their own use and that of the traders. The beaver found there is the best in North America ; but, to insure its passage into France, it is necessary to establish a French commandant there, with at least thirty soldiers. The savages desire this. It would also be necessary to induce the Hurons to return, whom M. la Motte decoyed away, as they are much better qualified to cultivate the land than the Outawas.

These Hurons would never have abandoned this country, if there had been a French commandant ; they left solely on account of their hatred of the Outawas, who held them in a kind of slavery. Those whom M. d'Aigremont saw at Detroit say they like much better to be at Michilimackinac, and would