

caused their death. Some have even gone to reside at Detroit, to avoid this death, which M. la Motte pretends to have power to inflict.

M. d'Aigremont begs to be believed that the account he has given of the conduct of many individuals, has been quite against his own inclination, not having any reason to complain of them on his own account, but because he must obey the orders of His Majesty. He infers, from all he has seen, that Fort Frontenac, on Lake Ontario, ought to be maintained, unless it is thought advisable, hereafter, to establish a post at La Galette, twenty-five or thirty leagues lower down. He considers the post at Detroit very injurious to the colony, and to the commerce of the kingdom; but thinks it very important to preserve the trade at Michilimackinac, where the Outawas are established.

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1709: DECISIONS REGARDING NORTHWESTERN POSTS.

[Part of a letter from Count de Pontchartrain to Sieur d'Aigremont; dated July 6, 1709.]

I have noted all you write me respecting Detroit, as it was the main object of your mission. It seems to me that your sojourn there was not long enough to obtain a thorough understanding of it. Besides, M<sup>r</sup> de la Mothe complains that you did not confer a sufficient length of time with him, to appreciate the reasons whereon he acted, which perhaps might have led you to adopt other sentiments than those you embraced. In a new country like that, new maxims are sometimes necessary which may appear censurable on their face, and be intrinsically good. Nevertheless, I find a too great cupidity in said Sieur de la Mothe, and that his private interests in establishing that post may have engaged him to prefer his special advantage to the general good of the Colony. On the report I have submitted on the subject to the King, his Majesty has thought fit to withdraw his troops from that place, and to leave it to Sieur de la Mothe to do what he pleases with it, without any privilege over the other inhabitants of Canada, confining him within the limits