

back to Orange. Since that time, the post of Detroit has been established, which has prevented the English presuming to send out a new expedition.

The second reason is, that the King, preserving this post with a garrison, would afford means to prevent any movements the Iroquois might make, and the engagements they might enter into with the Indians, our allies, either as emissaries of the English or on their own account.

The third reason is that, if we have war with the Iroquois, Detroit may keep them in check, because between that post and them there is only Lake Herié by which they can be attacked, as in 1687, when all the old and new grain of the Iroquois was destroyed; that this post would, moreover, furnish sufficient provisions to the French and Indians who might assemble there preparatory to going to war against the Iroquois.

The fourth reason is, that the preservation of this post is of importance for the proposed establishment at Michilimakina, since, from the commencement of the present year up to this time, more than 800 *minots* of Indian corn have been exported from Detroit; and the more Michilimakina will augment, as the land there is poor and does not produce corn, of the more consequence is it that some Indians remain at Detroit to cultivate the soil, which is good thereabouts, particularly for Indian corn.

These reasons will show the necessity of fortifying that post and of garrisoning it with 20 soldiers, one serjeant and an officer, under the orders of the Commandant; this would be sufficient both to guard the fort and to prevent the Coureurs de bois going thither.

There are two modes of defraying this expense without any cost to the King. First, to give up the trade at this post exclusively to the officer in command there, as is the case at present, on condition of his defraying all the necessary charges, even the presents for managing the Indians who come to trade there; whence it follows that the conditions heretofore imposed by M. de la Mothe on divers private persons can no longer exist, as these cannot derive therefrom any further advantage than that of carrying on trade there to the prejudice of the Commandant who must meet all the expenses thereof.