

These settlers are unable to improve any grant of land, as they possess no other retreat and asylum there than the fort; for were any houses without the fort, they would be exposed to be burnt, and their occupants to be killed; even the Hurons and Outawas are each in their fort, like the French; and the Poutouatamis, who have not as yet had time to erect one, have taken shelter between the French and Huron forts, and they often have alarms which oblige them to put their wives and children into the French fort. Therefore, M. de la Mothe's idea of establishing a colony there is impracticable, and incompatible with the exclusive trade his Majesty [has conferred] on the Commandant of that post, which is not to be governed otherwise than Fort Frontenac, where there were formerly some settlers whom the King obliged to abandon said place; and if it be his Majesty's intention that the Commandant of Detroit enjoy the trade of that post as the King enjoys that of Fort Frontenac, it is necessary that the settlers who remain only in the fort have orders to abandon it.

When Sieur de La Mothe undertook this establishment, his Majesty granted him 150 soldiers, whose pay and clothing were provided by the King. Sieur Delaforest, who desires to be in a position to defend this post as he ought, requires from his Majesty only twenty soldiers and one serjeant, with their pay and clothing, which he will receive at Quebec without any charge for transportation, and these soldiers will not cost his Majesty any more than his other troops in garrison in that country, and would render his Majesty very good service there, it not being fitting for an officer who has the honor to command for the King in a fort 350 leagues from Quebec, in the centre of the Indian nations, to be alone and without troops.

The second mode would be, that his Majesty should manage this fort on his own account, as is the case with Fort Frontenac. It is indifferent to Sieur Delaforest, who has no other view in this command than to acquit himself to his Majesty's satisfaction.

These two plans can be applied equally to the establishment of Michilimackina, which is still less suited to the establishment of a colony than Detroit, the soil being so poor that it does not produce Wheat, and so little Indian Corn that the resident In-