

Those two Commandants, whose Posts have become more onerous in consequence of the present state of affairs, certainly seem to deserve the Amount mentioned in their Accounts. But we are compelled to call Your attention to this point: that if the Commandants advance presents for the Savages to accompany the Words that they say to them, they also receive some from the savages, which might well Compensate them.

We have the honor to Be with very profound respect, Monseigneur, Your very humble and very obedient servants,

DUPUY.

[BEAUHARNOIS.]

QUEBEC, October 20, 1727.

1727: ANSWER TO COMPLAINTS OF DETROIT HABITANTS
AGAINST THE COMMANDANT'S MONOPOLY OF FUR TRADE.

[Letter of the Intendant Dupuy to the Minister; dated Oct. 20, 1727.
Source, same as that of preceding document, but fol. 274.]

I had not then an exact idea of the Post of Detroit, when I had the honor of laying before you the representations of the Habitants of Detroit, That the Exclusive right to Trade granted to the Commandant was detrimental to the growth of that place. I thought that, since the Time when this Post was Established, a sufficient number of families had gone thither to allow of the habitants dividing into two Classes; and that some would remain to cultivate the Land, while the others by means of Trade—which really ought to be free in a Colony—would go to a distance to seek what the former required.

I have reconsidered that too General opinion, in consequence of the Explanation that has since been given me. That is, that in fact there are as Yet only twenty-eight or thirty Habitants; And that Corn that sells at forty sols a minot in the Colony has been worth at that Place as much as 25 livres A minot, and at present is worth 22 livres, and other articles in proportion. As Regards the Exclusive right to Trade, it must also be understood that this Privilege relates only to the goods for the fur