

Trade; and in no wise concerns any of the other Goods handled in more general Commerce, for the needs of the Habitants. Accordingly, the Habitants are free to go and come, and to procure the same for themselves.<sup>1</sup>

One of the Complaints that I Found in memorials that had been Sent to me Was, Moreover, that the Sieur de Tonty had sublet His Exclusive privilege to several persons, and that he should Exploit it himself rather than allow it to be exercised by several, thus increasing the number of persons to obtain an advantage Over Them.

The three objects of those representations are, therefore: The Exclusive right to the Fur Trade; The subletting of the same by Monsieur de Tonty; And the Trade in other goods. With regard to the Exclusive Privilege, it would have been Impossible to Enact anything here respecting it, [because] First: It has been granted by the King and it must continue until the King be pleased to revoke it. The Sieur de Tonty holds it under an onerous Title, which consists in his Being charged with all the expense of the Post—not only for the Officers and Soldiers who may be in Garrison there (to whom the King will pay only their allowances and salary, and their Clothing Taken from His warehouses), but for the support of the chaplain and of the Surgeon, and for the presents to be given the savages. To all this the King Is not obliged to contribute in any manner—as is expressly set forth in the King's memorial to Messieurs de Vaudreuil and Begon, dated June 15, 1722.

Secondly: It affects only the goods for the fur trade, And This has nothing in Common with what will more or less facilitate the Establishment of the Habitants. The fact that these fur-Trade Goods are Solely in the hands of Monsieur de Tonty can Interest only the Merchants of Montreal, who thereby lose the sale of some Outfits; but it is Not from their Mouths that these

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<sup>1</sup>Dupuy refers to a petition from the Detroit colonists, dated Oct. 21, 1726, protesting against their exclusion from the Indian trade. This document, with the answers made thereto by Alphonse de Tonty and some traders to whom he had sublet a part of his own monopoly, and Louis XIV's ordinance (dated June 19, 1722) regulating the privileges and duties of the Detroit commandant, are given in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iii, pp. 167-177.—Ed.