

complaints come—we owe these attentions only to The personal Interests of the Detroit Habitants. But, as the Sieur de Tonty and his Sub-farmers¹ must always obtain at Quebec or at Montreal their supply of merchandise suited to the fur Trade (and even other Kinds of merchandise), or have the same brought out from France, this does no Injury to either the Kingdom or the Colony.

Whether the Sieur de Tonty Exploits His privilege himself or causes it to be Exploited, the fact is Still of no interest—because, as it relates to fur-Trade Goods, it is a personal matter that concerns only the Savages, and not the Habitants of the Country, who are free to provide Themselves with everything needed for their subsistence. The question whether one should Exploit a privilege oneself, or allow it to be Exploited by several Sub-farmers, applies only in the case of taxes Imposed; since the sub-farmers of these frequently disturb the administration by Harassing the people, through Coercive acts and costs, more than the farmers Themselves would have done.² And there is here no question of a right whose Extension to several Agents might be prejudicial to the public. It is quite the Contrary. And it may be said that the number of sub-farmers for that Trade, constituting a greater number of Merchants, thus places the goods in more hands, and causes them to lower the price, for the reason that a larger number of Merchants are supplied with the goods.

But, since Monsieur de Tonty and his sub-farmers are, through the opportunity afforded by the Fur-Trade, enabled to Trade in the other goods needed at Detroit, This is a point which must be considered, to see whether they do not take advantage of it. With regard to this the following reflection may be made. Either the people of Detroit are in a Position themselves to engage in Commerce and to go for their goods at a distance, or they are not. If They Are in such a Position they are at perfect liberty to do so—provided, nevertheless, that it be Solely with the produce of their Lands. Once more, the Exclusive

¹The traders to whom he had let ("farmed") the trade monopoly.—Ed.

²See p. 177, note 2, ante.—Ed.