

shall be given the preference over the highest and last bidder. If the trade be given to the highest bidder, or if we should deem advisable to fix the price ourselves, they shall have the preference over all others if they wish to accept.

*Fifth Article.*—Should they be stopped on the way in the country of the Renards or beyond, or should they, when they reach the Sioux country, be compelled by superior force to return this year, they shall be permitted to trade their goods wherever they think proper, under the orders of the commanding officer, who shall have power to decide the destination of each one in such manner as he may deem most expedient for the welfare of the King's service and that of the Colony.

*Sixth Article.*—That all of the said interested parties who may be compelled thereto through illness or domestic reasons, shall be at liberty to abandon the trade and to return to it before the expiration of the three years, in such manner nevertheless that no one shall leave the Sioux country without the express permission in writing of the commanding officer.

*Seventh Article.*—That no associate shall transfer his share either wholly or partially except to persons of good character, free from scandal of every kind and who will not interpose any obstacle to the establishment of Religion amongst that great number of barbarous peoples, so that God's blessings may rest on their persons and trade.

*Eighth Article.*—That all the associates without exception and all persons in their employ shall be forbidden to absent themselves from the fort that is to be built, for the purpose of hunting, without the express permission of Monsieur the commandant.

*Ninth Article.*—That the said interested parties bind themselves to leave in the fort next spring two men per canoe, making eighteen men not including the servants of Messieurs the officers; and those of the missionaries, and that they may employ the other voyageurs in conveying their furs to Montreal and in bringing back goods therefrom; this shall likewise apply to the last two years.

*Tenth Article.*—That when they shall leave the said post they