

portages.¹ That therefore it might be advisable not to continue those two posts, That of Detroit being sufficient, since the savages, to whom the trouble of transportation costs nothing, could go thither.

That, in order to derive from the post of detroit all the advantages that were expected therefrom, it might be expedient to take away the trade of that post from the Commandant, so as to make his authority respected. To order him very expressly to prevent all Frenchmen from ranging the forests under the pretext of trading or Hunting as this makes the savages despise them and leads to quarrels between them and the voyageurs.

That, to compensate the Commandant for the loss he may suffer through Trade being made free, it would be necessary that every Canoe be required to bring him without charge a certain weight of goods for his subsistence; that he be also granted something by License, a portion whereof might be set apart for the expenses of the almoner, and of the Interpreter, and for presents to be given the savages. This could not fail to be productive of good results, since, instead of giving Permits for the posts amongst the Miamis And Ouyatanons, they would be given solely for detroit, and a certain reduction should also be made in order that the Voyageurs may be able to give these goods to the savages at better prices.

That it appears that the same might be done for the post of Missilimakinac. That they were to communicate their observations thereon.

They reply, That, in order to break off that Trade completely, it would be necessary that the posts of Niagara and fort de frontenac be always well supplied with trading Goods, which

¹The route from Detroit followed the shore of Lake Erie to the mouth of the Maumee. On that river was a long portage at the rapids, near the entrance of the Au Glaize River. The length of the portage from the headwaters of the Maumee to those of the Wabash depended upon the season; in dry times it was nine miles long, in wet seasons being sometimes reduced to two miles. See "Journals of George Croghan" in Thwaites, *Early Western Travels* reprints (Cleveland, 1904), vol. i.—Ed.