

strength to enable the Commandant to make the King's authority respected, have induced me, every year, to beg you to urge His Majesty to order a larger number of troops to be sent to this country to enable me to supply garrisons to the posts without weakening below Their present strength the companies stationed in the towns. Although I have sent to the posts only the number of soldiers that was strictly necessary, I would nevertheless not have taken the liberty of addressing fresh remonstrances to you on the subject, had not the reasons that influenced me in previous years, seemed to me deserving of more attention, especially in our present state of uncertainty as to the course our neighbors [the English] may pursue. This matter, Monseigneur, seems the strictest of the obligations imposed on me and, although you have done me the honor of informing me that His Majesty could not bring himself to order an additional number of troops to be sent, as I had taken the liberty of asking, I have considered that present circumstances might justify me in repeating my request, as the good of his Majesty's service, and the welfare of the Colony are at stake. I venture to flatter myself, Monseigneur, that you will be pleased to take this into consideration, especially after I have had the honor to assure you that such increase is indispensable for strengthening the posts of the upper Country, and retaining the necessary garrisons in the towns.

I had the honor to inform you last year that, inasmuch as the *Sieur Peau*<sup>1</sup> had incurred great expense in proceeding to Detroit, That Officer would have been completely ruined had I brought him back the same year. At the same time I flattered myself, Monseigneur, that His Majesty would appreciate these reasons. But, although the *Sieur Péau* was greatly needed at

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<sup>1</sup> Jacques-Hughes Péau, *Sieur de Livaudière*, was born in Paris in 1682, and came to Canada as officer in the king's troops. He was commandant at Fort Frotenac in 1724, and at Chambly in 1727. After his service at Detroit (1732-36), he returned to Quebec, and was made town major of Quebec, where he died in 1747. His son was the peculator, whose wife was mistress of Bigot, the last intendant of New France.—Ed.