

numerous and has been allowed to live with a little too much liberty.

The proposed plan, according to what you write us, would for the present consist merely in Placing a stationary commandant there. To me it seems certain that the officer appointed on that footing and for whom you would obtain some favor from the King might to some extent contribute to the increase of that Establishment by his Example, his care and his efforts to urge the people to till the Soil; But he will not succeed in increasing the number of families or at least he will experience very great difficulty in doing so. Soldiers alone began the Establishment of Detroit when Monsieur de La Mothe Cadillac commanded there, and they alone can maintain it at present. The majority of the Voyageurs are too busy and too fond of Trading to allow us to hope of their settling there and devoting themselves to the cultivation of the Soil.

A commandant at Detroit as that Post is at present Established could not live there unless he carried on some trade. We cannot help permitting him to do so and in such case he extends it according to his industry.

We might farm out Detroit and even derive a profit of from 3000 to 4000 livres per annum by allowing the farmer to sell all the Brandy he wished. In such case he would undertake to pay all the present expenses of the post. But such a step would entail other Drawbacks Equally detrimental to the growth of Detroit. The farmer would be at liberty to put such price upon goods as he might think proper; the old residents who are beginning to cultivate their Lands would soon decide to abandon them, And it is certain that they would not be replaced by others. For the same reason the Savages would take a dislike to trading with the French. Finally freedom of Trade is absolutely necessary at the beginning of Establishments of that Kind, and the one proposed herein is the only plan I deem suitable for the carrying out of your Intentions.

At present the garrison of Detroit consists of 17 soldiers; the Sieur De Noyelles has to carry thither their pay and uni-