

them before receiving your orders to put the Post of the Ouyatanons on the License system like that of Detroit, on their Representations to me that goods would be sold them at too Dear a rate. Nevertheless the Trade is Carried on by voyageurs, and the Commandant has only 3000 livres per annum that they give him. The Commandant of River St. Joseph is on the same footing. Now, how can I keep my word, and at the same time Carry out His Majesty's intentions.

There is another drawback, Monseigneur, in the arrangement made with respect to the Post of Missilimakinac and inserted in the King's Memorial; it is that the Missionary shall Continue to enjoy the proceeds from the forge, and that an officer second in command is unnecessary. You will see, Monseigneur, by the speeches of those savages, that they asked me to allow the blacksmith the freedom of his work, which I could not avoid granting them. The Poutouatamis made me the same request, which I granted also. I have done the same for the Post of Detroit in the instructions I have given the Sieur de Celoron. The stratagems resorted to by the English to attract our Savages, compel me to use great Circumspection toward Them, and to Content them as much as I can.

I gave Orders to the Sieur de Vercheres in his instructions, to send the officer second in command to spend the winter Every Year with the Outaouacs of Saguinan, to Prevent their trading with the English. Such, Monseigneur, is the use of an officer second in command.

All these precautions, Monseigneur,—which my zeal and the Experience I must have gained with regard to the Manner of dealing with the Nations, led to to take before I received the King's orders—place me, as I have just had the honor of observing to you, in a state of Embarrassment from which it will be difficult for me to Extricate myself, especially with savages who are kept in check solely by careful Management, and who would seize the first pretext to break the word they have given me were I to fail to keep mine. Unaware as I Was, Monseigneur, of the change you have deemed expedient to