

erful and more easily corrupted. There are at present at illinois, I think, many more ploughmen than traders, and at Detroit many more traders than ploughmen. Finally the establishments begun in the illinois country are divided up into several posts somewhat distant from one another; That of Detroit is and will for a long time be all in one. With this knowledge, it will not be difficult, when you give your orders, to send to those two small Colonies, that are almost equally useful, what is suited to each.

I have now to reply to what you ask me regarding the suggestion that has been made to have a stationary Commandant at Detroit. I can speak on this subject with great uncertainty only, but I am strongly for the affirmative, and Monsieur hocquart is of my opinion.

That command would doubtless be above the rank of Captain, and that of King's Lieutenant or major might be given to the officer appointed, as at San Domingo and illinois. But, notwithstanding this, it would not be sufficiently tempting, if the thousand ecus attached to it should be given up, which would seem to make it preferable to all the King's Lieutenantcies of the Colony. Whosoever might be there would always want to leave the place for the smallest of those King's lieutenantcies, and thus changes would occur almost as frequently as in the present establishment.

Moreover I cannot help admitting that I do not know the senior Captains well enough to propose any one to you of whom I would be sure that he would meet your views regarding the proper establishment of that post.

There is also a drawback in giving a Captain the rank of King's Lieutenant without passing him through the rank of major, and amongst the majors there is only the Sieur Chevalier de Longueuil whom, I think, it would be difficult to get to accept it.

There would remain only Monsieur the Chevalier de Bertet, who, judging from the relations I have had with him, would do very well, although he is perhaps too obstinate about his mines. But it has occurred to me that he is thinking of going