

Canada to come from there are obtained by barter from the nations of the Missouri. From this I conclude that the proposed arrangement would not increase the Trade of Canada and that New Orleans would receive great damage both as regards its trade and its subsistence, because it is Certain that the inhabitants would not run the risk of coming down, when they would have no hope of returning in safety. Even supposing there were no interruption and that goods were Transported to New Orleans as formerly, there would infallibly arise between the inhabitants of that place and the farmers sent from Canada with the privilege of trading, a kind of Commercial conflict which, as regards goods obtained by the sale of produce, would give rise to difficulties which I see no means of avoiding.

Owing to the fact that it is always easy to descend the river especially during high Water when the Current is very swift, there is no great risk for those who Know the places where they can protect themselves against surprise by the savages, and at present Twenty-five or thirty men would be more than sufficient to bring down to New Orleans, in addition to quantities of bear's grease, tallow, and hams, all the products of the harvest, of the [fur] trade and of the Working of the lead mines, the yield whereof has not been of any great value so far, although it is asserted that they are very rich and can be rendered productive with hardly any expense. But these same people would not be in Position to take the return goods back to Illinois without the escort of our detachments. It has happened that convoys of 150 or 200 men have been attacked, and the repeated experience of many voyageurs who had to Escort and who were attacked, beaten and pillaged at various times some years ago, proves the necessity of affording them such protection.

Therefore if the two Companies forming the garrison of Illinois were withdrawn and replaced by a detachment of troops from Canada, would there not be reason to fear that, deprived of the assistance that constitutes the safety of their Trade, some of the inhabitants might neglect the Cultivation of the