

Command there has infinite trouble in maintaining a little discipline, and he has succeeded in doing so only by showing himself severe. On the other Hand the garrison in its present Strength greatly awes the nations; a Change would astonish them. As they are suspicious and very sensitive, they would think that the French intend to abandon them and to sacrifice them to those of Canada.

I Conceive that if those two Companies were recalled in pursuance of the proposed plan, they would be very useful for the other operations of the service for which the remainder of the troops do not suffice; but I think it would be dangerous to disgarrison or draw in our frontiers, and although it is generally a true saying that the more forces are united, the stronger they become, it would be otherwise in the Case in question, because by such union we should leave 300 leagues and more of country a prey to our neighbors and appear much weaker to the savage Nations that judge our strength only by the extent of the territory we occupy.

If the jlinois post be considered an establishment difficult to maintain in connection with Louisiana, It can be so only on account of the distance, which is from 300 to 350 leagues from New Orleans by the Course of the river. Would not the same reason apply still more as regards Canada, which is twice as far and the road to which, besides the portages, is practicable only during one season of the year on Account of the ice, while the Governor of Louisiana can at all seasons receive news from Illinois within a fortnight or three weeks according to the greater or lesser rapidity of the Current, and send his Orders there by land in two Months.

I admit that This remoteness imposes fatiguing detachment duty on our soldiers, but I have not yet noticed that such fatigue has caused the death of any. Moreover there will be a way to spare them the hardest part of it. The arrival at New Orleans in September, of the vessels loaded with general supplies will Enable the Governor to send off the jlinois Convoiy at the end of January at the latest. Then the river being half full, the Current will be moderate and the shoals will