

be Covered which will obviate the necessity of making long Circuits to Avoid them; this will shorten the voyage by almost one fourth. The more temperate atmosphere at that season and the abundance of Game will keep the crews in strength and health, so that by this arrangement the Voyages will entail hardly any fatigue And will be performed much more rapidly.

It would be desirable that the King be spared the expense entailed by the Jlinois garrison and assuredly nobody will ever devote himself more zealously than myself to anything that may tend to effect a useful and well-understood Economy.

Although I have not a thorough Knowledge of that expenditure, it seems to me that, except in extraordinary Cases, it cannot be very Considerable. For, if bread and meat for the subsistence of the garrison be dearer in the Jlinois country, there is a proportionate and greater profit on the goods given in payment therefor, besides the fact that, in consequence of the Sale effected in New Orleans of the Provisions sent from France for those two Companies, the disbursements that have to be made in the Jlinois country are almost entirely repaid to the King's Treasury. I see, therefore, only the repairs to the fort and to the buildings belonging to the King that can Occasion any extraordinary expense, but if the Storehouse in New Orleans were in Position to Supply enough to That at Jlinois to pay in Goods for the work ordered to be done there, I have no doubt that the profit on such goods would easily meet the cost of the repairs, and This is the only way I can see at present to reduce the expenses of That post.

Finally to come to a decision on the question as to which of the two Colonies of Canada and Louisiana would derive the most Benefit from the Jlinois settlement, you will find, Monseigneur, that the former Can hardly obtain other advantages from it than it now does, and that the latter, which is infinitely poorer, greatly needs it for the increase of its Trade.

The products obtained from it, not Including the Provisions Consumed in the lower portion of the Colony, constitute nearly