

The weather was dreadful in September, October, and November. Snow fell on the 10th of October to the depth of a foot and caused him great delay.

He kept his employees occupied throughout the winter in cutting 1,100 stakes 15 feet long for his fort, with the timber for the inside linings and that required for building three houses, one of which is 30 feet long and 20 wide, and the two others 25 feet long and as wide as the first.

His fort is completely finished with the exception of an oak redoubt which he is to make 12 feet square and as much above the gate of the fort. As soon as this work is completed, he will send me the plan of his establishment. His fort is 110 feet square.⁴⁶

The said Sieur de Repentigny has observed to me that during the winter he has had small rafts of timber run down the Sault Ste. Marie through a spring of hot water which is a curiosity in this country where ice is more common than anywhere else.

With regard to the cultivation of the land—The Sieur de Re-

⁴⁶ The fort here described was situated on the south (or American) side of the strait, about where Fort Brady is now located. It caught fire and was destroyed Dec. 22, 1762, not long after possession had been taken by a detachment of British under Lieutenant Jamet. Alexander Henry was staying there at the time and describes it in his journal. Jamet sought refuge at Mackinac, where he was killed when the Indians surprised the fort, June 2, 1763. See Bain, *Alexander Henry's Travels and Adventures* (Boston, 1901). No further effort was made by the British government to occupy this place, but in 1783 the North West Company of fur-traders built a fort and trading house on the north shore of the strait, which was maintained under this company and its successors until recent times. In 1814, in retaliation for the active sympathy of the fur-traders with the British, an American detachment under Lieutenant Holmes visited the site, and burned all the buildings; see "Franchère's Narrative," in Thwaites, *Early Western Travels*, vi, pp. 395-397. The first peaceful American expedition to the region was that of Gov. Lewis Cass in 1820. He found the Indians under the influence of the British, but made a treaty with them, which was faithfully kept. In 1822 Fort Brady was built, and has been garrisoned ever since.—ED.