

Tribes of Indians that live about the Lakes & Rivers between them. The first is by the River Outaouais [Ottawa] which rises from Lake Nipising & empties it self into the River S^t. Law^{ce} a little above Mont Real, they go up this River into Lake Nipising from this Lake by the River François to Lake Huron and along the whole length of the Lake to Missilimakinak on the West side of the Lake. This passage is very tedious and difficult its being on account of the vast Number of Falls and also its being all the way against the Stream,⁸⁵ and yet is very frequently made use of by the Indians & Traders rather than the passage by the Lakes, because whenever there is a high wind if they go by the Lakes they are obliged to lay by as long it lasts, their tender Canoes not being able to live amongst the large Waves that are then raised in these inland Seas. The Passage from Mont Real to this place generally takes up about three Months. I do not know of any Fort the French have in this Rout but at this place, which has formerly been a place of very great trade, and had formerly a fort with a Garrison of about thirty Soldiers, but now there are but three or four Soldiers with a subaltern maintained here.⁸⁶ Another and an easier Passage to Missilimakinac is from Mont Real up the River S^t. Lawrence to Lake Ontario which is about 80 Leagues this upon account of the rapidness of the River and the Falls, of which there are five, is never performed under Twenty days & sometimes it requires twice that time Between Mont Real & Lake Ontario the French have two Forts one about twelve Leagues above Mont Real, the other about forty Leagues from

⁸⁵ The usual route to the upper country. Many descriptions exist of this voyage. Among the best are those of Lahontan in 1688; see Thwaites, *Lahontan's New Voyages* (Chicago, 1905), pp. 218, 219; Henry in 1761, see Bain, *Henry's Travels* (Boston, 1901), pp. 13-36; Franchère in 1814, see *Early Western Travels*, vi, pp. 397-399.—ED.

⁸⁶ This appears to be an exaggeration, for until the downfall of New France the commandant at Mackinac was always of the rank of captain, save for a brief period when Lieut. Charles Langlade, second in command, succeeded to full control.—ED.