

owing to the people of Canada being accustomed to journeys of that kind.

It does not appear either that the removal of the two companies of troops forming the garrison can injuriously affect the safety of the post. Besides the fact that the French are there in sufficient number to have nothing to fear from the savages, it is probable that the latter will be better satisfied and quieter under the immediate command of an officer from Canada, because it is certain that they fear the French and savages of that country much more than those of Louisiana.

The separation of the post could not injure the defence of Louisiana. The habitants of the Illinois country could hardly be in a position to aid in it. And if an occasion arose, the officer of Canada in command there, would always be obliged to execute the orders that would be given him in the matter by the governor of Louisiana.

There is only the article of flour which the latter colony obtains from the Illinois, that can deserve attention. But could not that branch of trade, the only one from which it derived any benefit, continue to be carried on notwithstanding the reunion of that post to Canada? And could not the convoys that transport such flour go on doing it as usual?

It is true that the goods that would not fail to be sent there from Louisiana might give rise to difficulties in connection with the trade of that post. But could not arrangements be made to conciliate all such matters?

I beg you to weigh all these reasons and such others as may occur to you and consider whether it would in fact be advisable to unite the Illinois to Canada, or leave that post a dependency of Louisiana. In communicating your opinion on the subject to me, you will also please explain the new arrangements you think should be made in consequence of the decision you may propose. I am also writing on this matter to Monsieur de Vaudreuil, the Governor of Louisiana, and when I shall have received your answer and his, I will take the