

and meat, which would relieve the capital greatly, as well in the matter of provisions as of men who are occupied in transporting stores from Montreal to Fort Frontenac—a passage of seventy leagues with fearful rapids to mount,¹⁰ which wears out the best men diverting them from agriculture to the transportation of stores for the different posts of the south. Detroit being established, nothing would be easier than to bring all the succor necessary in provision and beasts to furnish the posts mentioned, and this by means of flat-bottom transports, or barks which would carry from sixty to seventy tons, and which crossing Lake Erie would bring the government produce to Point à Binot.¹¹ There a small fort could be built for an entrepôt both for stores coming from Montreal for the southern posts, as well as for those coming from Detroit for the posts that the government provisions, and for the goods of commerce; this would greatly diminish the number of engagés used as voyageurs. And the transports going and coming to Point à Binot would be laden with different goods. One might go and return by bateau from the little fort at Niagara¹² to Point à Binot, a distance of nine leagues. And the transports not

¹⁰ Bougainville had had personal experience of this route from Montreal to Fort Frontenac, having accompanied Montcalm on the way to capture Oswego. For a good description with a detail of the rapids, etc., see François Pouchot, *War in America, 1755-60* (Roxbury, Mass., 1866), ii, pp. 91-113.—Ed.

¹¹ Now known as Point Abino, on the north shore of Lake Erie, in Welland County, Ontario. The name is spelled on old maps in various ways; see Buffalo Historical Society *Publications*, vii, p. 367, for an early survey and the varying orthography.—Ed.

¹² Joncaire had long had a house and trading settlement at the upper end of the Niagara portage. In 1750 this was erected into a fort variously called Little Fort Niagara, Fort at the Portage, etc. Joncaire maintained his command at this place until July, 1759, when upon the approach of the English army led by Sir William Johnson, under orders from Pouchot commanding Fort Niagara, he burned the buildings and retreated across the river to Chippewa Creek. The English later built a fort at this site, known as Fort Schlosser from its first commandant. It was maintained until the nineteenth century.—Ed.