

The Mississagués who are wandering about Lake Erie, could be settled there all the more easily that they would be assured of finding within the fort the resources that they lack when they are so far away from it.

The Iroquois who have a village at *Kanouagon*,<sup>27</sup> thirty leagues distant from La Presqu'Isle would also draw thither; often they are obliged to have recourse to us for provisions. But in order to succeed in forming an establishment at this place, there would be necessary:

1st. A warehouse at La Presqu'Isle well supplied with provisions and merchandise to trade according to the custom of the savages;

2nd. To abandon the portage. We pay six francs per sack to the savages for the portage, three francs to the French; but this disparity would disappear soon by the tariff of merchandise and provisions, and by the advantage of a commerce which would soon become considerable.

The chief of the Mississagués is named *Maccouainité* and that of the Iroquois *Cocité*; both are very fond of the French and have given proofs thereof.

*Niagara*.—Niagara may be regarded as a strong place at present; it is situated at the head of Lake Ontario to the south, at the confluence of the Niagara river. This post is the key of the upper country.

As the land there is excellent, the climate temperate, hunting and fishing abundant, we should try to establish a town there, or at least some habitations in a village. This establishment, and that of *Détroit* directed by good laws, would become the granary of the Upper Country. By this means the expense and the difficulties of transportation would be saved, and Canada would be in a condition to export more fully.

The king conducts the commerce at this post and consequently pays the gratifications of the commandants and other employees; but the commerce is ill-regulated there, trade is made in a fashion burdensome and but little profitable for the king.

<sup>27</sup> For this village see *ante*, p. 39, note 66.—ED.