

It would be well to make trade free, the competition between the merchants resorting there would render merchandise less dear. If the tariff is not lowered sooner or later the savages, who no longer have Chouéguen, will go to Orange and carry their peltry; and one must never lose sight of this reflection, that in this interest commerce is still less essential for the preservation of the colony depends upon it, for we sustain ourselves only by the favor of the savages; this is the counterpoise which makes the balance hang upon our side, and the savages will accept the hatchet from those with whom they carry on commerce most advantageously.

The nations that come to trade at Niagara are the Five Nations and the Mississagués.

There issue from this post in an ordinary year, two hundred and fifty to three hundred packages.

The portage from Niagara to [Petit Fort] is \* \* \* leagues; the same reflections for this portage as for that of La Presqu'Isle, it is essential to employ the savages in this.

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*Michilimakinac* is a fort of standing pickets, situated on the strait of communication between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron; it is the entrepôt of the posts of the north; it is on the same footing as Detroit, entrepôt for the southern posts. It is exploited by licenses, which are six hundred francs per canoe; each canoe is obliged to carry five hundred weight for the officers, or the necessities of the garrison. This post has been reduced to a thousand francs yearly for presents to the savages, and no certificates. The commandant there has three thousand francs; the second in command, one thousand francs; and the interpreter, six hundred francs.

The savages who come to trade at this post are the Saulteux and the Outawais; there may come from there in an ordinary year, six to seven hundred packages.

*Baye des Puants* (Monsieur de Rigaud) is an established post. It is farmed for nine thousand francs; all expense on the part of the king has been suppressed; there are neither presents,