

that he has made all the arrangements he has considered necessary, according to his strength to receive the enemy.

I have strongly recommended him to be on his guard. M. de Noyan de Villiers, who has been sent to relieve him, will be very vigilant.

All the garrisons belonging to our posts on the Beautiful river are retiring to Detroit with as much provisions, artillery, ammunition and merchandise as they can stow away in the bateaux; the surplus was given to the Indians.

The domiciliated Mississagués of Presqu'isle followed the French to Detroit.

All the Nations of the Beautiful river witnessed with sorrow the departure of the French. Chevalier de Portneuf⁷⁷ sent them a message, especially to the Chaouinons, to engage them to persevere in their good dispositions.

M^r Hertel, whom I had stationed at Sonyoto, has kept his ground.⁷⁸

⁷⁷ Etienne Robineau, Sieur de Portneuf-Neuville, belonged to the younger branch of the house of Portneuf. In 1748 he was made ensign, and led a raid from Fort St. Frédéric. At the opening of the French and Indian War (1754) he was with the detachment at Camp Chautauqua, employed in making bateaux for the transport of canoes and provisions. He seems to have accompanied Montcalm to Oswego in 1756. The following year, promoted to a lieutenancy, he was made commandant at Presqu'isle, being the last French officer at that place. In 1760 he retired to Detroit, as this document states, when the fort was occupied by a detachment from Fort Pitt under command of Col. Henry Bouquet. At the close of the war, Portneuf retired to France, but later returned to New Orleans and the Illinois.—Ed.

⁷⁸ Apparently there was no fort at the mouth of the Scioto, but a well-built Indian village of log-houses where the Shawnee made their headquarters, a French officer being kept there to maintain allegiance between them and the French.

There was a large family of Canadian noblesse known as Hertel. This was probably Pierre Antoine, Chevalier de Hertel, who was known to have been at Detroit in July, 1760. He was in France in 1762, but the following year received permission to return to Canada. He does not appear to have married.—Ed.