

directions, dated the 8th of October last; The Drawing here-to annexed<sup>11</sup> is taken from the different maps and the best memoirs and relations I have hitherto been able to procure; 'tis intended chiefly to show the Western Posts which the French formerly occupied, and how far they extend beyond Michilimackinac, this end I believe it answers tolerably well, tho' their exact Positions on the Globe must be erroneous, as I have not met with any of those Gentlemen, who understand the use of any Mathematical Instrument, but they all agree that Pascoyat<sup>12</sup> is two and a half or three months journey beyond Michilimackinac, and reckon the distance about nine hundred leagues, probably this is far beyond the true distance, as they follow the serpentine course of Lakes and River. The River on which Pascoyat stands, is said to be five hundred leagues long, a Fort was erected one hundred leagues beyond Pascoyat, but I have not Information enough, to put either the Fort or the full extent of the River on the Map.

The annexed return of the French Posts, of the Troops for the Protection of Trade, with the number of canoes sent up in the year 1754, shews in some measure the Extent of the Trade, and the System pursued by the French Government in Indian affairs; they did not depend on the Number of Troops, but on the Discretion of their Officers, who learned the language of the Natives, acted as Magistrates, compelled the Traders to deal equitably, and distributed the King's Presents; by this conduct they avoided giving jealousy, and gained the affections of an ignorant, credulous, and brave People, whose ruling Passions are Independence, Gratitude and Revenge, with an unconquerable Love of strong Drink, which must prove destructive to them, and the Fur Trade, if permitted to be sent among them; thus managing them by address, where force could not

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to Canada with Wolfe. Appointed governor of the colony (1766), he retained that position until 1778, returning with the title of Lord Dorchester, to be governor from 1786 to 1796.—Ed.

<sup>11</sup> The drawing was not with the letter.—*Note in Original.*

<sup>12</sup> For this post see *ante*, p. 186, note 35.—Ed.