

avail, they reconciled them to their troops, and by Degrees strengthened the Posts at Niagara, Detroit and Michillimackinac without giving offence.

The country was divided into certain Districts and the only Restraints laid on Traders were, first, not to go beyond the Bounds of that District they obtained Passes for, and secondly, not to carry more Spirituous Liquors than was necessary for their own use, nor sell any of that to the Indians; the King's Posts, or rather the Intendant's, were the only ones excepted from this general Rule.

Under these Regulations the canoes went first to the Post of the District, from whence they had full liberty to go among the Indians, and accompany them to their hunting grounds; they likewise called on their return; if any were ill-treated they complained to the Commandant, who assembled the Chiefs, and procured redress. The Savages also made their complaints, and obtained immediate satisfaction—an exact report of all which was sent to the Governor. This Return may be depended upon for so much as it contains, but as the King of France was greatly concerned in all this Trade, a Corrupt Administration did not think it their Interest, that all these Matters should appear in a full, clear and lasting Manner.

Your Lordship will be pleased to observe that the great Inlets, to the North-East from the Mississippi, are by the Ohio, and from thence up the Ouabach, which leads towards the Sources of the River Miamis and Lake Erie; by the Illinois, that leads to Fort St. Joseph, and Lake Michigan; and the Ouisconsing, that leads to Fox River and Bay des Puans; besides these different streams that run into the Missisipi carry them towards Lake Superior and the Western Lakes.

The French or Spaniards have a settlement two hundred and fifty Leagues above New Orleans at Arkonka [Arkansas], which serves for a deposit, and three, opposite to Fort Chartres, formed since the Conquest;<sup>13</sup> from these Magazines they

<sup>13</sup> Ste. Geneviève, St. Louis, and St. Charles, for which see succeeding documents.—Ed.