

sho<sup>d</sup>. remain there & for their Cattle & Beasts of Burthen, and the very low wages of Battoemen & all Labourers in the time of the French when compared with the usual hire at this time, is also a matter that sho<sup>d</sup>. be attended to.

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1769: FEAR OF INDIAN CONSPIRACY

[Extract from a letter from Sir William Johnson to the colonial secretary, dated June 26, 1769. Reprinted from *N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, viii, pp. 173, 174.]

I have already observed that I shall forthwith execute the orders transmitted in your Lordship's letter in the best manner I can, as I shall every part of my Duty particularly endeavouring to discover the designs of all secret enemies who by their machinations threaten us with danger, among other instances of which I find from the examination of a man who is lately returned from the Mississippi and well acquainted with several of their proceedings, that Indians arrived last January at the place where he wintered, who brought belts from the French Settlements, which were immediately forwarded thro the Nations to the Lakes, the purport of which tho kept very private was to promote a Union for the execution of some plan & that those Messengers made particular enquiry concerning the strength and number of men at the out posts. There has been likewise an Alarm at Detroit which put a stop to the Traders going to the Westward for some time & occasioned the Inhabitants to fortify themselves, this seems to have arisen from the claims the Indians have to the possessions of sundry French Inhabitants at that place, but tho their apprehensions are at present somewhat abated, there is good reason to think they are far from being over, from the concurring Acc<sup>ts</sup> from all Quarters amongst w<sup>h</sup> I have just received Information from Detroit communicated by *Huron Andrew* an Indian of good sense much respected for his attachment & services to us, that Mons<sup>r</sup> *Vercher* formerly