

## Wisconsin Historical Collections [vol. xviii

We have the honor to Be, with profound respect, Monseigneur, Your very humble and very obedient servants,

LAJONQUIERE,  
BIGOT.

QUEBEC, September 28, 1749.

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[Letter from La Jonquière and Bigot to the French minister, dated Oct. 5, 1749. Source, same as preceding document, but fol. 31.]

MONSEIGNEUR—We reply to the Letter you did us The honor of Writing to us on May 23 Regarding the post of Detroit.<sup>44</sup>

This post has with much reason at all times been considered very interesting and important, not only from its position with reference to the savage Nations it controls, but Also as a barrier to the Encroachment of the English and because of the provisions it can supply to the Voyageurs of the Southern posts; moreover it Is very advantageous for the fur Trade.

All these Considerations Led Messieurs de La Galissoniere and Bigot to take upon Themselves to Send to that post as early as last spring as many families as they could get, to whom they promised a provision of flour for two years with all the necessary implements for clearing and hoeing the soil. This number is not as large as they would have wished, only 46 persons having gone there, including men, women and Children. It Was Necessary, Monseigneur, not to lose a year while waiting for your answer as we Were convinced It would be in Accordance with your ideas, And next spring we will Send up others of we can get them.<sup>45</sup>

It Is Necessary to populate Detroit. If we could have a strong militia there with some regular troops the savage Na-

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<sup>44</sup> See *ante*, letter of May 14 (not May 23).—Ed.

<sup>45</sup> By 1750, the population of Detroit had increased by fifty-seven, making a total of four hundred and eighty-three colonists. Ten grants of that year still exist. See Bela Hubbard, *Memorials of a Half-Century* (New York, 1887), p. 116.—Ed.