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lements I have acquired during my short stay the information that I present to your Excellency, in obedience to the orders that your Excellency considered it advisable to give me.

PEDRO PIERNAS

NUEVA ORLEANS, October 31, 1769.

1773: AFFAIRS AT MACKINAC AND IN WISCONSIN

[Letter from Capt. John Vattas²⁸ to Gen. Thomas Gage. From Haldimand Papers, B 70, p. 55; reprinted from *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xix, p. 299.]

MICHILIMACKINAC, May 16th, 1773.

SIR—I have the honor to enclose to you Returns of the state of Ordnance & Engineers Stores together, with one of Provisions, the Store House is very near finished, already contains the greater part of them, & I hope to inform your Excellency by next opportunity of its being complete, I received a Barrel of Nails from Detroit which not answering for shingles, obliged me to take others out of the Engineers Stores, & have made them fit for that use, as it would otherwise have been impossible to go on with the Building, I have also provided near eight hundred Pickets for the Post, three hundred of which have been already placed in the room of others, entirely decayed; The winter from the accounts of the Savages that visited us in the course of it has been remarkably hard, insomuch that many of them scarce kept from starving, I am sorry to find these con-

²⁸ John Vattas (Vatass), apparently of Irish extraction, became captain in the 10th infantry May 5, 1760. This regiment came to Boston in 1768, being stationed there until the evacuation in March, 1776. Vattas was promoted to a majority in the same regiment (Jan. 13, 1776), and had left the army by 1778. How long he was stationed at Mackinac is uncertain. He was relieved of the command at that place by De Peyster in 1774, and probably returned to his regiment in Boston, where no doubt he was in the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill.—Ed.