

## Wisconsin Historical Collections [vol. xviii

[Letter from Capt. John Vattas to Gen. Frederick Haldimand. Source, same as preceding document, but pp. 302-304.]

MICHILIMACKINAC, June 16th, 1773.

SIR—Your Excellency's Letters of Novr. 25th 1772 & March 29th 1773 I had the honor of receiving last week & shall endeavour to follow the several directions inserted to the best of my abilities a Priest of Detroit by name Simple raised a report last winter that a Body of Savages in number about five hundred attempted cutting off the Fort on New Year's day last that near two hundred of these had already gained admittance to the Fort unnoticed & were by mere chance afterwards discovered by a Sentry from whose information they were searched & found to have arms cut short concealed under their Blankets; upon this discovery those without dispersed & fled as did the former as quick as possible; This he informed an Engage of who had been sent by His Bourgeois early in Jany. there from off his wintering ground about eighty leagues on business to his owner, who on his return divulged all he had heard from the Recollet & carried by it much uneasiness amongst the Traders & Savages. I have sent him down to Detroit to be examined in presence of the Recollet, altho' he denies the whole, notwithstanding the other has sworn to the Deposition. Mr. St. Luc Lacorne's arrival here from Montreal, some time after this ugly Report, added to a Paper left by my Predecessor, relative to a Savage having received a Belt from him, with words that passed between them on that occasion made me begin to keep a sharp lookout & guard in as far as possible against any attempt here by surprise or otherwise. I immediately caused the pickets absolutely worn away to be pulled down, had new ones planted in their room got several hundred more cut & cannon rightly prepared. However I soon discovered Mr. St. Luc's business, to be only to gather in some debts. have had that same savage examined by him & the Interpreter in presence of witnesses, who were readily convinced his accounts were groundless & malicious & deserving of the severest punishment. One Ducharmes, a Trader, has been plundered in the course of winter