

by a Lasaide [Laclède], who follows some business on the Spanish side. This Ducharmes went I believe beyond our Limits and was served so in consequence of it by order of Mr. Purenasse [Piernas] the Spanish Commandant on the Missouri. the Spaniards I'm told want much to engross all the Trade with the Saaks, & prevailed on them very lately to go against the Osages, with whom they had since engaged, that fifteen of the former had been killed, on the spot and the rest had fled much dissatisfy'd with that Expedition. I have also heard of a Mr. Boyle's³⁰ having been killed wintering with three or four more in other parts; but as tis not yet certain how it happened, nor by whom perpetrated, I must wait the arrival of other Traders & refer Your Excellency for a certainty of those facts to another opportunity. Two of Mr. Baxters Company of Miners are here, on their Return to England & Himself shortly expected, on same Business. I'm told they are heartily tired of the undertaking, met with some disappointment in their last year's drafts & have determined to persist no longer in their error.³¹ I have directed by the opportunity of the sloop, to Your Excellency, an account of Expenditures for things furnished to Savages by Mr. Todd,³² with a Draft at twenty days sight in his favor, for the amount Commodore Grant³³ has signified to me having received your orders to prepare two Boats, for the use of this Garrison,

³⁰ Nothing further than what is stated in this document and the next, seems to be known of this trader, save that he was in Detroit in 1768.—Ed.

³¹ Alexander Baxter was an Englishman, apparently being Russian consul at Montreal. He embarked (1768) in a mining enterprise with Alexander Henry. In 1768-69 he returned to England, organized a company, purchased mines, and brought out miners. These operations appear to have been on the east shore of Lake Superior. See Bain, *Henry's Journals*, p. 228, and *ante*, pp. 293-295, 311. In 1774 the work was abandoned.—Ed.

³² Probably Isaac Todd, merchant of Montreal, who did a large outfitting business for the Northwest.—Ed.

³³ Capt. Alexander Grant was bred to the sea, and while lieutenant in the 77th infantry commanded (1759-60) vessels upon Lake Cham-