

Your Grace has done excellently in observing with the official, Monsieur La Balme, the prudent conduct of which you give advice on September 23 last.<sup>28</sup> Although I do not believe that there will be the least difficulty in the habitants of that village having the present which they request, and which belongs to them for the three months of April, May, and June, when they performed service, and which was not granted them by the late Commandant, Don Fernando de Leyva, I have been unwilling to take upon myself the granting of the petition until it is decreed by our General, who will immediately do it in favor of those militias, for which purpose I shall report to him the justice of the request.

Madame de Volsey is in this city.<sup>29</sup> On the date of November fourteenth last, Your Grace advised me that you sent her against your will, because of the occasion of one Malvo. We shall do our best to settle this matter, which appears a trifle difficult and it was finally consigned.

I am advised that Monsieur Sarpi<sup>30</sup> has given you three thousand five hundred *pesos fuertes* for the support of the officers and troops of that detachment, according to the advice of November 15 last.

I am not displeased at the measures which Your Grace took in that post one week after your arrival because of the alarm in those posts, of giving each militiaman, and all the slaves who can bear arms, one-half pound of powder, and one pound of balls, with orders to keep them for any event, and to prove, when they use it, that it was in the service of the river.

I retain review lists for the two months which the detachment, which ascended to Santa Genoveva at the orders of Lieu-

<sup>28</sup> For the conduct of the Spanish commandant with relation to De la Balme, see *Ill. Hist. Colls.*, ii, pp. xci, 621.—ED.

<sup>29</sup> For the history of this person see Billon, *Annals*, pp. 435-437.—ED.

<sup>30</sup> Jean Baptiste Sarpy was a native of France, who came to St. Louis about 1766 and was a prominent merchant there for over twenty years. He died in New Orleans, unmarried, in 1798. The Sarpy family of St. Louis are descended from his brother.—ED.