

upon this point is positive and admits of no neglect and no more delay than is necessary for the selection of the station most favorable to the success of the expedition.

It is very likely that the French will attack Canada by the San Lorenzo river, and will excite a rebellion in their favor that will certainly oblige the governor of Canada to devote all his attention and to take all his forces to Alto Canada. Lieutenant Colonel Don Carlos Howar[d] will try beforehand to obtain information as to the forces and the situation of the English posts, and as to the temper of the inhabitants, especially in Michelimakinak, in order, in the case supposed, to excite at the same time a revolution in Baxo Canada ⁷³ in favor of France. This would entirely protect Alta Luisiana from the English during the war. Since the inhabitants of San Luis have had close connections with those of Michelimakinak, there will be no great difficulty in forming secret relations with the latter; and you may promise immediately to send arms and ammunition, and

English had some sort of a wintering fort among them. The Missouri Company, formed of Spanish merchants, sent out an expedition in 1795 under the charge of one Mackay, who wintered with the Omaha; and the next spring dispatched a Welsh employee, Lewis Evans, to explore the upper Missouri and expel the British traders from those waters. Evans found an English fort on the Missouri, apparently below the Mandan villages; see his map in *Original Journals of Lewis and Clark Expedition*, viii, No. 2—a manuscript copy made by the American explorers, and frequently referred to by them in their outward course. Evans caused the English flag to be removed from this fort, and claimed to have driven off the intruding traders (unpublished manuscript from Archives of the Indies, Seville). In 1797, however, David Thompson, the English astronomer and explorer, was at the Mandan villages, but no English blockhouse appears to have again been erected in this region. See also L. R. Masson, *Bourgeois de la Compagnie du Nord-Ouest* (Quebec, 1889), i, pp. 286, 294, 299-393. The success of Evans's voyage to the upper Missouri was not known in New Orleans when Carondelet issued these orders.—Ed.

⁷³ The Spanish terms "Alto Canada" and "Baxo Canada" are the reverse of those used by the French and English—"alto" (upper) meaning with them the St. Lawrence valley, and "baxo" (lower) the region about Mackinac.—Ed.