

fact as follows: As soon as the Company's ship arrived, I sent to Montreal a number of pieces of English cloth, and I gave the merchants permission to forward them to Detroit. This they did not do because there was some of English manufacture there already; and I have been told that, while the merchants were representing to me that the supply of cloth was insufficient, they had the English cloth in their possession and shipped it off quietly during the night.

Regarding the ordinance I issued with respect to foreign trade, I am sparing no effort to have it produce the desired effect. The chiefs of the savages of the Sault have promised me to denounce the Frenchmen who may employ their people to convey beaver skins to New England, and that they would make them consent to hand me over their cargoes, the confiscation whereof I will grant with a good reward. I do not rely implicitly on that promise and I am having a watch constantly kept to surprise some offender.

That is all I can do. A great deal more cloth is indispensably needed than the Company sends. It should, if possible, be as fine as that of the English, and a little cheaper, while the price of beaver skins should be raised. I admit that these two propositions can hardly agree, but I think the Company would find compensation when the receipts of beaver skins would become greater, when they could sell them dearer and the supplies obtained by the English would be greatly lessened.

I remain with very profound respect, Monseigneur, Your very humble and very obedient servant,

LAJONQUIÈRE.