

#123
Monseigneur!

I came to Mackinaw not long ago, with Augustin, to see you and to speak to you here, because if you had already arrived by this time you would not have gone to Arbre-croche, as almost all the Indians of the mission have gone for the presents; there are only 5 men, 4 women and 3 or 4 children in all the village of Little Traverse; and between that village and Cross Village there is not a single one; finally, at Cross Village there are some, but very few. Therefore I was able to leave the mission without any inconvenience to come to see you here in Mackinaw. We were very sorry when we saw the steamboat arrive without our good, beloved Superior; but as soon as it was learned that you still have some business in Detroit which prevents you from coming at present, and that you would come here in a few weeks, we were indeed consoled. I will return in a few days to Arbre-croche and I will wait for you there. Before your arrival all our Indians will be back. I received the two letters that you have sent me by Margaret. I will take Margaret with me to the mission, and I hope that she will do some good in the school at the beginning, but perhaps not for a long time. Augustin will not teach school much longer, nor regularly. I will do my best with one or the other to keep them in order, and to make them accomplish their duties.

Mr. Bonduel has left for Green-Bay in the same steamboat which arrived last night.

Concerning the mission which you have in mind to establish at Lake Sup., I can now give you enough information, so much the more so, since I was confirmed by Mr. Bonduel and Mr. Abbott in all that I say in regard to that mission. I will speak to you very frankly, Monseigneur, in the presence of God, and with no motives other than the glory of God and the eternal salvation of these poor abandoned Indians. I think that the time has come when one should help these savages already so well prepared, and who are in the firm hope of seeing a priest among them this summer. And one can grant them this grace without abandoning the precious mission of Arbre-croche, and even without doing it any harm. The Indians of A.c. are almost all converted, except for some good-for-nothing stubborn ones, who do better in not dishonoring our holy religion by accepting it. Other than that, the Indians of this mission who have had priests continually for 6 years, are so firm in their religion, and also so well instructed, that they could remain, without the least harm, even a year without a priest; but it will not be necessary to

