

GABRIEL CERRÉ to GEORGE R. CLARK, July 12, 1779.

[Drapier MSS., 49J59. — A. L. S.]

MONSIEUR,

Je soite que la presente vous trouve En parfaite Santé. Et vous Soite toute Prosperité Dans vos Entreprise. Vous savée Lorsque vous mavée employé a fair Les achats de deferante provision pour Les Etats, je lé fait avec touts Le zele possible Je né Epargnier ni mes peines ni ma bourse Car toute Les fourniture que Jai Prise Sur La partie De misere Je les ai payée En peltri sur lequele Je doit Encore Milles ou Douze Cent Livres De pax De Chevreille. Dans le Reglement De mes Compte avec Monsieur Shannone Je lui est Demendé Des marchandise Pour Comme il me lavoit promis répondre á mes Engagement, Jugé De ma surprise Lorsque quil me Dit quil nátois pas a Son pouvoir De men donner Daucune Especes, il ma donné Des letres De change Pour au nombre de Douze Cent Trante huit piastre Le Dis Crédite Des letre De change Comme vous le Savez menpeche De Repondre a mes Engagement Je ne Recoure qu'a vous Dans Se moment. Jespere que vous vousDré Bien me fair Donné Des marchandis pour La Concurance De ce que Je Doit qui poura Equivallé quatre cent piastres

[Translation.]

SIR:

I hope that this letter will find you in perfect health, and I wish you all success in your enterprise.<sup>1</sup> You know that when you employed me to buy different supplies for the States, I did so with all the zeal possible. I spared neither pains nor my purse. I paid for all the supplies I took from Ste. Genevieve with peltries, on which I still owe a thousand or twelve hundred *livres* in deer skins. In settling accounts with Mr. Shannon,<sup>2</sup> I asked him for some merchandise, since he had promised to be responsible for my engagements. You may judge of my surprise, when he told me that it was not in his power to furnish me with any kind of merchandise. He gave me letters of exchange to the amount of twelve hundred and thirty-eight *piastres*. The discredit of the letters of exchange, as you know, prevents me from settling my liabilities; I depend only on you at this moment. I trust that you will be kind enough to see that merchandise is delivered to me to the amount that

<sup>1</sup> Contemplated expedition against Detroit.

<sup>2</sup> William Shannon was commissary and quartermaster of the Illinois battalion.

Je ne rien Exigé De me paines pour Le services Des Etats insy il Servit Bien dure pour moy de d'eBoursé Milles Livres De pax de Chevrule, Jespere que vous aurée Egare a ma demende, Comme Egalement a legare De ma forge que Javois Louée a M<sup>r</sup> Winston pour Les Etats. Les ouvriers ont enporté tous les outi[ll]s qui etois Dedans don vous trouveré La note Cy join pour Le temps qu'il ón été DeDans il ma été paye 73 livre par Monsieur Shannone. Cent piastre ne sufroit Pas pour Remetre Les outils qui manquent et le fere qui a été employé Dont Je né pas eue un Sous. on ma dit quil y avoit Du fere au poste au etats Et Des outils de forgeront vous pourier men faire remettre vous pouvez vous enforme De Sela a Monsieur Kenedy il nier aucune nouvelle qui merite votre atantion Sinon que le Bruit Coure lon Jour qun Gran no[m]bre de Sauvage Doivent nous attaquer.

Je vous pris De me Croire avec Consideration Monsieur

Votre tres humble Et tres obeissant Serviteur

Des Kaskaskias Le 12<sup>m</sup> Juillet 1779

CERRÉ

[Translation.]

I owe, which equals some four hundred *piastres*.<sup>1</sup> I did not require anything for my trouble in the service of the state, so it would be very hard for me to disburse a thousand *livres* in deerskins. I hope you will have consideration for my request, as well as some consideration for my forge which I rented to M. Winston for the use of the states. The workmen took away all the tools that were there, a list of which you will find joined to this letter. For the time that they had possession of it I received 73 *livres* from M. Shannon. A hundred *piastres* would not be enough to replace the tools that are missing and the iron that was used, for which I did not receive a cent. I have been told that there is some iron as well as blacksmith's tools at the post of the states. You might be able to have some of them turned over to me. You can inform yourself on this subject through M. Kennedy who will keep back nothing which may be worthy of your attention, unless it be that rumor has it that one of these days a large number of Indians will attack us. I beg you to believe me with consideration, sir,

Your very humble and obedient servant,

Kaskaskia, July 12, 1779.

CERRÉ.

<sup>1</sup> He reckons five *livres* to the *piastre*.

Etats Des outils qui manque Dans ma forge Scavoir

1 Gro Marteaux	4 Demis Ronde
1 Dito petite	1 Cuillier a pot
4 <sup>lrs</sup> Lime Carré	Lanaux Des Tenaille
1 Ronde	La Chaîne du Soufler

[Addressed:] Monsieur Monsieur Le Colonel Clark aux Poste Vincennes

[Translation.]

List of the tools that are missing in my black-smith shop: Namely:

1 large hammer.	4 half-round files.
1 small hammer.	1 cooking-ladle.
4 square files.	The ring for the tongs.
1 round file.	The chain for the bellows.

[Addressed:] To Col. Clark, at Post Vincennes.

JOHN DODGE <sup>1</sup> to PHILIP BOYLE, July 13, 1779.

[B. M., 21782, f. 242. — Copy.]

PITTSBURG, JULY 13<sup>th</sup> 1779.

DEAR SIR,

It is with pleasure that I inform you that I have made my escape from Quebec; I have the honour of wearing a Captain's Commission, and the managing Indian affairs. You may depend upon seeing me there this fall with a good Army. Fisher and Graverat<sup>2</sup> are here and desire to be remembred to their Brothers and bid them to be of good cheer. There has been a battle at Carolina, the English are entirely defeated, seven hundred lay dead on the ground, the rest prisoners with all their Cannon and Baggage. I inclose to you the proceeding of a Council. I am going to Williamsburg in a few days to prosecute Hamilton<sup>3</sup> and that Rascal Dejean<sup>4</sup> Lamotte,<sup>5</sup> likewise Hominay

<sup>1</sup> John Dodge played an important part in Illinois during the revolutionary years and thereafter. He had just been appointed, in 1779, commissioner for Indian affairs in Illinois. A full account of him will be found in *Ill. Hist. Collections*, ii., Introduction. Concerning his capture and imprisonment he wrote: *An enterprising Narrative of the cruel and barbarous Treatment and extreme Sufferings of Mr. John Dodge during his captivity of many months among the British at Detroit*, etc., 2d ed. Danvers, Mass., 1780. Also published: *Almon's Remembrancer*, vi.

<sup>2</sup> Visger and Graverat of Detroit.

<sup>3</sup> Lieutenant-Governor Hamilton, captured at Vincennes.

<sup>4</sup> Philip Dejean was judge in Detroit during the British period. He followed Hamilton to Vincennes, was taken prisoner, and sent to Williamsburg. Thomas Bentley states that it was through his influence that Dejean was released on parole and returned to Vincennes and Detroit.

<sup>5</sup> Guillaume La Mothe was a trader at Detroit in 1767. On the outbreak of the Revolution he was in New England. Later he returned to Detroit and became a British "partisan." He was captain of militia, when he accompanied Hamilton on his Vincennes expedition, where he was captured. He was, like Hamilton, kept in close confinement until his exchange in 1781. Adapted from *Wis. Hist. Collections*, xviii., 442.