

All these reasons, my Lord, have induced me to follow the king's orders for building the "Algonquin" and to propose to you to have another vessel built of the same dimensions as "L'Original," and use her rigging, sails, chains and anchors, employing the oak which was discovered last winter on a height of land, and which I had examined this summer by a master carpenter in order to ascertain how much there is of it. He has made a report thereon which is attached. The quality of this wood might be tested (the wood hitherto used having been taken from swamps), and if it was shown, by the short life of the ships, to be no better than the other, we would cease to employ it.

If you do not approve of this proposition, I will send you all this outfit by the king's ships, if you will have the goodness to give the captains orders to take it.

When the "L'Original" was launched, the jump she was obliged to make in coming off the ways, although an extension of thirty feet had been added to them, was so great that she broke the running ways and six supports. The pitch was seen forced out of the seams with smoke and squirted more than ten feet. The shock was extremely violent, and those on board assert that she bent some four feet and the water came in at once. To prevent a like shock to the "Algonquin," I have drawn the stocks back thirty-three feet, having to excavate in the rock to get this space, in order that the vessel, having farther to run, the slip would be lower at the water's edge, besides I have lowered the stocks from four and a half to five feet in rear, which will give me nearly eleven feet at the water's edge. Thus the slip which was fourteen feet in height at low tide will not be more than three, causing the water to reach the vessel on the stocks.

M. de la Jonquière is of the same opinion, and I consulted him before having this work done. We expected that the "L'Original" would suffer from this jump. The builder alone thought differently, but he acknowledged his error and readily set himself to lower the stocks.

We have the honour to be with profound respect, my Lord,

Your most humble and obedient servants,

BIGOT.

NOTE ON THE MS.—"Not signed by Jonquière."

Official report of a visit to the oak woods at the River Senaranac :

We the undersigned overseers maintained by the king, and carpenters in his service, having by the Intendant's order proceeded to Lake Champlain to explore and inspect the oak trees at the River au Sables and vicinity. Arriving at the said River au Sables, we found an Indian who claimed to be able to find a fine pine grove, so we got him to guide us to it. We ascended the river one day's march without finding anything but small cypress trees of no value. Next day we returned to the