

# HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

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throughout the Colony, that is to say, the rate of the fourteenth minot instead of the eighth.

EXTRACT FROM THE SAME LETTER AT PARAGRAPH 18.

I have reported to the King the proposal you make to return [to him] the land of Detroit when you have brought *it into the condition you intend. His Majesty will not require that of you; but, far from wishing that you should study to draw from that land a large revenue, his will is that you should labor to render his post of service to the general welfare of the Colony, and to make the inhabitants there happy, while preserving your own interests as far as justice will permit.*

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LETTER FROM MM. DE VAUDREUIL AND RAUDOT.

Endorsed—MM. de Vaudreuil and Raudot.

Duplicate.

14th Novr., 1709.

My Lord:

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The Sieurs de Vaudreuil and Raudot felt quite sure that the Sr. d'Aigremont would give you an exact and faithful account of the journey he made by our orders to the further posts of this Colony; they are also quite satisfied, My Lord, of the reasons which should induce His Majesty to keep up Fort Frontenac at the present juncture; but they hope you will permit them to represent to you that, if this Colony were unfortunately at war with the Iroquois, it would be impossible to keep this post up, for at least eight or nine hundred men would be necessary to escort every convoy of provisions that went up there.

They have the honor of assuring you that they will not establish any new post in this country without orders from you.

The Sr. de Vaudreuil will strictly carry out the orders which you do him the honor of giving him, My Lord, as to ordering down the troops that are at Detroit, and the Sieurs Raudot will see to their subsistence as to that of the other soldiers.

It is true, My Lord, that the Sr. de Vaudreuil, by the order he gave to the Sr. de La Mothe in 1706 when he went up to Detroit, forbade him to let French people marry savages until such time as he should receive order from you to the contrary. He did so as he is convinced that bad should never be mixed with good. Our experience of them in this country ought to prevent us from permitting marriages of this kind, for all the



Frenchmen who have married savages have been licentious, lazy and intolerably independent; and their children have been characterized by as great slothfulness as the savages themselves.

You will see, My Lord, from the private letter of the Sr. de Vaudreuil that he has been obliged to order the Sr. de Joncaire to get rid of the man Montour who is the offspring of such a marriage. It seems that all children born of them try to create as many difficulties as possible for the French.

If the Sr. de La Mothe had thought that his prohibition was injuring his settlement, he could have done himself the honor, My Lord, of writing to you to obtain permission for this. The Sr. de Vaudreuil had the honor of sending you at the time a copy of the order which he handed to the Sr. de La Mothe before he departed, and you sent him word that you approved of it.

The presents which the Sr. de La Mothe receives from the savages at Detroit, My Lord, ought to recoup him for what he gives them, which amounts to very little, being nothing but a few livres of powder and bullets, of which His Majesty has graciously given him a quantity free; but the Srs. de Vaudreuil and Raudot, My Lord, will do what you order them to do as to this.

The Srs. de Vaudreuil and Raudot, after considering the matter, find no one among the officers who serve His Majesty in this country, more suitable for re-establishing the post of Michilimakina than the Sr. de Louvigny, who formerly commanded there during the last war, and was much respected and beloved by these savages. They have the honor, My Lord, to nominate him to you for this post, but that ought not to stand in the way of his appointment to the King's lieutenantcy, which is about to become vacant, as he is the senior major and moreover a most intelligent and vigilant officer. It would be very hard on him if, by rendering him the justice due to him as regards the post of Michilimakina they should prejudice his promotion.

The confidence the savages have in the Sr. de Louvigny make them believe that nothing could be better at the present juncture than to send him to this post; for, with the English straining every nerve to raise the Iroquois against us, it is of the utmost importance in case that should happen to set all the Outavois tribes against them, as the Comte de Frontenac did, who made use of the said Sr. de Louvigny for that purpose and was very much pleased with him because of the constant expeditions he got up against the enemy, which prevented those they might have made against this Colony.

If His Majesty adheres to the intention of having this post re-established it will be essential, in order to make the savages understand that it is a permanent one, to have a fort and some houses built there, as there used to be before, and 20 soldiers and a sergeant will be required for building this fort and keeping it up.