

Two letters from Father Nicolas I. de Beaubois
to Monsieur de la Loë, Secretary of
the Company of the Indies.

MONSIEUR,
I have not yet had the honor of writing to you since [I] left Paris. I have always been like a savage, [lonely] and wandering, especially since my arrival at l'Orient,⁴⁰ whence [we] have to make continual excursions to one place or another. Shall we never leave, monsieur? What a cruel assault upon [our] modest purse is caused by this delay and this procrastination, which are as tedious [as] they are long. I must admit to you that the blood boils in my veins at [every] quarter of an hour during the day. At the 1st Opportunity I shall take the liberty [of making] a modest representation regarding this matter to the Gentlemen of the Company. I can truly with a clear Conscience Attempt to obtain some slight gratuity, in order to [pay the] debts that I Contract here every day for my household—whose [expenses] amount, without Counting Extras, to more than 12 livres a day [for] fifteen persons. But no; I shall not ask for Any, except merely an advance of the 2nd quarter. Nothing can Be more reasonable than that. What [say] you? Remember, I beg of you, your usual kindness when this matter is brought up. In truth, my honor and [my] credit are at stake here; and, without some Compassionate repayment on the part of those