

to prevent the resale to an Englishman of the former Jesuit property at Kaskaskia; and the commandant forbids him to exercise any powers of his vicariate until the British governor-general of Canada shall confirm them.

Meurin asks the bishop to decide whether he shall admit to the sacraments and absolve Beauvais, who is wrongfully holding certain articles belonging to the old Jesuit chapel at Kaskaskia. During the past four years, Meurin has received from the parish no tithes, and has obtained his living only from the gifts of charitable parishioners, and fees for masses said. He asks the bishop to decide whether the members of the parish shall not be compelled to pay their tithes. Meurin feels that he is growing old and feeble, and asks the bishop to send him to one of the clergy-houses of the church, as a retreat wherein to die in peace. He adds, however, that he hears alarming rumors that the Jesuits are to be expelled from the British dominions.

Meurin desires the episcopal decision on certain questions — among them, “whether Roman Catholics can swear on the Protestant Bible.” The earlier commandants at Kaskaskia had forbidden Protestants to attend Roman Catholic services unless they were willing to observe the forms of that church while there. The present commandant will not allow Meurin to solemnize a marriage without his permission; nor will he allow the militia to parade under arms at a church procession.

CCXXXIV. La Brosse writes (September 23, 1776) to a lady whose son is to study with him for the priesthood. He states that he is going to spend the winter with the savages far down the great river,