

representing that *Sieur* Gatineau and his associates, had engaged the *Sieur* Belestre, commanding in the absence of *Sieur* De Tonty, to assemble them at *Father* Bonaventura's to offer merchandize at a reasonable price, only to form a pretext and prevent them from reporting to you their complaints, which is entirely destitute of truth.

It is true, that on account of some altercations between the inhabitants and *Sieur* Gatineau and his partner, about the trade, *Father* Bonaventura and the *Sieur* De Belestre engaged them to assemble at the Presbytery, to confer with *Sieur* Gatineau and his associates about the price of goods; but without taking any other part there, as is shown by the certificate of *Father* Bonaventura and *Sieur* Belestre, when they aver that this proposition was made to them out of season, it being then three days since goods had been given to the Indians; they might have taken them in the summer as *Perthier*, an inhabitant of the place, has said. In regard to the other reasons offered by the inhabitants, they are so absurd that the *Sieur* De Tonty has not deigned to reply—it being for the service of the King and his interests to maintain the savages there, and to support the Post and the advantages of commerce. It is sufficient, *Monsieur*, to assure you that it only belongs to them to do this conjointly with him through the licenses that he has given, provided they are in a condition to do so. But what is strange, *Monsieur*, of all those who have signed this demand, there are only the names of *Marsac* and *Philip* who were fixed residents of the place in the time of *Monsieur* La Motte Cadillac. A part of the others have only resided there since the time of *M. De Tonty's* command, and the remainder are mere volunteers. This should convince you, *Monsieur*, that the request is captious, and made by turbulent people, to which the remonstrant hopes you will not have any regard, because of the justice he has done the said people notwithstanding their bad conduct.

DE TONTY.