

## Renewal of the Fox War

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In 1719, while three deputies of the Foxes were at Montreal, with assurances of peace and good will, having surrendered all the prisoners they had taken, a new source of uneasiness arose. A party of forty Foxes, Kickapoos and Mascoutins were out on a summer hunt, when a party of forty Illinois completely surrounded them, probably while asleep, and killed one-half of them on the spot, and captured the others. The Fox deputies asserted that the Illinois had attacked them on several occasions during the last year. Gov. Vaudreuil urged pacific measures, and "that they must prevail with their allies, the Sacs, to labor to that end." In a letter of the King, May 14, 1728, to Vaudreuil, he said: "According to the intelligence his Majesty had received respecting the negotiation of peace between the Illinois and Fox Indians, he had reason to believe that it was on the eve of being concluded, and has been much surprised to learn, not only that it had been broken off, but, still more, that Sieur De Beauharnois had determined to make war on the Foxes! His Majesty is persuaded of the necessity of destroying that nation, as it cannot be kept quiet, and as it will cause, so long as it exists, both trouble and disorder in the Upper Country; but should have wished that such a step, the success whereof is problematical, had been postponed until his orders had been received. It is even to be feared, that the project may not have been so secret as that the Indians have not been informed of it. In this case, if they foresee their inability to resist, they will have adopted the policy of retreating to the Sioux of the Prairies, from which point they will cause more disorder in the Colony than if they had been allowed to remain quiet in their village. Possibly even the other nations, who have been apparently animated against the Foxes, will be touched at their destruction, and become more insolent should we not succeed. As the expedition is apparently organized at present, his Majesty has been graciously pleased to allow the sixty millions of livres demanded by the Sieurs de Beauharnois and Dupuy, for the expenses of that war, news of the success of which he will be expecting with impatience."

The following extract relative to Sieur De Lignery's expedition against the Foxes, in 1728, is taken from the *Voyages of the Rev. Father Emanuel Crespel in Canada*, edited by his brother Louis Crespel, and first published in French, at Frankfort, in 1752, in a small 12mo volume of 135 pages—a copy of which is in the library of our Historical Society; another edition in French was issued at Amsterdam in 1757, and an English translation in London, in 1797. Of the author we have no knowledge; he had probably died before the publication of his work under his brother's auspices, who is represented as alike an artist and author. The translation of this extract was made by Gen. W. R. Smith. L. C. D.