

Durantaye that my intention is for you to occupy a post at the Strait of Lake Erie, with 50 men; that you should choose a post in an advantageous place to assure us of that passage, and to protect our savages who go hunting, and serve them as a refuge against the enterprises of their enemies and ours. You will do or say nothing to the Iroquois, unless they should undertake anything against us or against our allies.

You will see also by the letter that I write to Monsieur de la Durantaye that I intend that you go to this post as soon as you possibly can, with some twenty men only, whom you will put under the orders of such lieutenant as you shall choose, as being best adapted for the command and best suiting yourself.

After giving all the orders that you judge necessary for the security of that post, and having ordered your lieutenant to be on his guard, and having recommended the rest to be obedient, you will go to Michilimaquina to await the Reverend Father Anialran, and receive from him the information and instructions on all matters that I shall have communicated to him regarding what I desire of you; and then you will return to said post with thirty men, whom you will receive from Monsieur de la Durantaye to conduct thither. You will see to it that each one furnish himself with the provisions necessary for his subsistence at the post, where doubtless it will be possible to do some trading in furs; accordingly, your men will not do ill to take with them a little merchandise.

I can not sufficiently recommend to you to keep up a good understanding with Monsieur de la Durantaye, as otherwise all our plans would come to nothing, and meantime the service of the king and the public would seriously suffer.

The post to which I send you is all the more important as I count that it will bring us into relations with the Illinois, to whom you will make known the matters of which the Reverend Father will inform you. Remember that nothing can be more important than to apply yourself to carry out well all my orders, and everything that I shall make known to you through the Reverend Father on his return to Michilimaquina. I send to you the commissions necessary for the command of that post, and for your lieutenant.