

enemies, and to render them masters of the entire trade of the other remote nations to whom our Frenchmen are accustomed to go. Consider, too, the greater cheapness of goods which the English promise them. All these things, Monseigneur, have caused great difficulty in so managing these peoples as to turn them aside from those transactions.

The Hurons and the Outawes finally determined to send me, this winter, the two most prominent men among them, with four of our Frenchmen, who brought them to me over the ice. How those Fathers, Monseigneur, have averted the greatest misfortune which could at present happen to us! which would be, if those peoples, quitting our alliance, should take sides with our enemies. The post which Sieur Dulhu occupies at the strait [*Detroit*] of Lake Erié, and the Frenchmen whom Sieur de la Durantaye has gathered at Missilimakina, have been of no little aid to Brother Valloin.¹ The harangues of the Fathers have been accompanied with threats from Sieur Durantaye. All these results, Monseigneur, could not be achieved without expense—not only to support our Frenchmen who were kept together in the posts, but for the voyages which it has been necessary to make with all diligence, but without any profit for those who were employed either in voyages or at the posts, where as vigilant guard is maintained as in a city in time of war.

Monsieur de Champigny and I did not fail to take good care of our two savage envoys, whom we were obliged to keep several months, awaiting the end of the severe cold season to send them back over the ice to a place near Lake Huron. According to the news that I have received, they reached their destination on the 3rd of May, when the ice was breaking up. They went away apparently quite resolved to march with their people to join me with Sieurs de la Durantaye and Dulhu, in accordance with my former plans of last year, and with the orders that I

¹ This name cannot well be identified, as no such person is known among the Jesuit missionaries to New France (see list of these in *Jes. Relations*, lxi, pp. 120-181). It is possible that reference is here made to Father François Vaillant de Gueslis, from 1678 to 1685 a missionary to the Iroquois.—Ed.