

forgot to ask you what you wish us to do in regard to the death of Lafourche" (meaning a Chief killed by the Canceas, a very distant Nation). "We shall not adopt any resolution without knowing your will."

The speech of this Indian, and the boldness with which he spoke, closed every one's lips; and the strongest opponents of the Beaver, the sole staple of this country, were unable to conceal their astonishment, notwithstanding the dissimulation so natural to them. The country ought to pray that the threat of this Indian may not be soon fulfilled. But it will be absolutely impossible to prevent it, if the King himself in that extreme benevolence which he feels for all his subjects, apply not a prompt and effectual remedy in the premises. The entire loss of the trade is not the sole evil we have to apprehend. The garrisons which might be stationed in the respective posts in the Upper Country will run daily risk of being slaughtered by those brutal Tribes, who are so difficult of management. It will be impossible for them to live there; the Commandants will be without authority, having no means to enforce it, as formerly, by the occasional muster of the Voyageurs—who, conjoined with the Regular troops, would impress the Indians with fear and respect. The enemy will take advantage of the coolness of our allies, who, in consequence of this abandonment, will lose all the confidence they once reposed in us; the latter will not fail [to go over to] the English; they will soon become friends, and those same Indians, who were the main stay of Canada, will be seen coming hither to procure scalps, and to compass its destruction.

Will it be possible to prevent the disbanding of our Coureurs de bois?—who, being themselves deprived of a trade to which they have been accustomed from their infancy, will, most assuredly, leave without permission, despite the orders of King and Governor. If any escape, notwithstanding all the care taken to prevent them, who will be able to arrest them in the woods when they will be determined to defend themselves [and] to carry their peltries to the English?

The Chief of the Foxes had only one word: "What shall I say to my father? I have come all naked to see him; I can give