

ties, to be retained in preference to all the rest, and to be suitably accredited therefor in the royal memoir, to show in what esteem the King holds virtue.

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I repeat to you, Monseigneur, all that I had the honor of saying to you last year about the necessity of leaving no Frenchmen, garrisons of troops, or other men at Missillimakinac, among the Illinois or the Miamis, or at fort Frontenac or the other distant places, if you wish absolutely to put an end to the beaver-trade there. For it is indubitable that as long as there are any Frenchmen present, except only the missionaries, this trade will be continued by means of the savages, who are now trained to go down to the colony with the beavers of the Frenchmen, and to bring back to them merchandise—which they do very cleverly, appearing to be acting for themselves. This has led, of late years, to the continuation of the licenses of several Frenchmen; and, as long as there are any who have the liberty of going there, or of remaining there on any pretext whatever, they will never fail to follow this custom. Besides, the colony being open on all sides, nothing is easier than to carry out merchandise and to bring in beavers without any risk; that will be done alike by the man named Le Sueur, with his fifty men, and by the men of Monsieur de la Forest,¹ who are the only ones who have permission from the king to go to these distant places. They will also, under other pretexts, indirectly enjoy alone the favor of the 25 licenses, which were worth 25,000 livres of income to the poor families of Canada, for whom they were designed; those permits will be worth infinitely more in their hands, as they have no competitors who can form an obstacle to their trade, upon whatever footing they may wish to put it—even including brandy.

Is it probable that le Sueur, who is a mere voyageur, should undertake to lead 50 men at his own expense 700 or 800 leagues

¹La Forest was a lieutenant of La Salle, and held command for him at Fort Frontenac until 1685, when he joined Tonty in Illinois. In 1690 these two officers secured the grant of Fort St. Louis, and a limited permission to engage in the fur trade. These favors were revoked in 1702, and La Forest was ordered to return to Canada. In 1710 he replaced Cadillac as commandant at Detroit, where he died in 1714.—ED.