

from Quebec, by almost impassable rivers, to look for mines of which he has no certainty (except as regards the lead-mines), and which can not be of any use to him, with the sole resource of trading in small peltry? That cannot be the case, for he knows that, according to the report of those who have been there, there is no small game in the places where he locates those mines. I know already that it is his intention to trade in other places; and as those regions, as far as known, are of limitless extent, he may, even if he has the fidelity not to trade in beaver, be able to make very considerable profits on small peltry by securing all that comes out thence; but he would be very far from fulfilling the intentions of the king, and would aim only at profiting alone and to the exclusion of all the colony, by the advantage of this entire trade. Besides, his enterprise, in the present state of affairs, can only lead to a considerable increase of our trouble, by contributing to maintain in distant territories the French who have just revolted, of which I shall inform you in continuing my letter; and it is to give them an opportunity to trade in beaver by furnishing them with his merchandise, since he has the liberty of carrying as much of it as he pleases. He has already sent along two loaded boats, which, he says, are going to pass the winter at Missillimakinac to prepare provisions for their voyage; and *Sieur de la Forest* has sent one likewise, in which he told me that he did not intend to put anything but powder, balls, and other supplies for his fort *St. Louis of the Illinois*.

It is certain, *Monseigneur*, that six men in two boats, would suffice for *le Sueur* to make the discovery of these pretended mines. And if one opens his eyes a little, to penetrate into his motives for asking permission to take along fifty men, it will appear very well founded that his purpose has been, after the suppression of the licenses (for this is just the time he chose for obtaining this permission) to be able to carry on alone and expeditiously all the trade of the upper country, and to find himself enriched by the profits resulting therefrom. When his intention is perceived, a remedy for it will be applied.

One may also regard *le Sueur* as the author of the troubles and warfare which have arisen between the *Scioux* and the other nations, who were living in peace before he had brought