

would have advised him, or those who are in command there, of my opinion, so as to apply a remedy to this wholesale robbery. I have been greatly surprised that he did not inform me of it, since you have not let me know, My Lord, that the King had detached that country, which was discovered by this, from the general government of this Colony. In whatsoever manner his Majesty disposes of it, it would be necessary that he should send his orders to the Commander of that post, to arrest these rebels, so that they may be sent to the galleys, agreeably to the King's declaration of the 21st May, 1696; and that he address like instructions to me by the earliest vessels, in order that they be informed thereof by the coast of the Mississippi and by this way, so as to constrain them to profit by the longest delay I have given them—until the month of July next year—to return to this country. This would obviate the necessity of his Majesty having to chastise them according to the rigor of his orders.¹

¹ A letter of Louis XIV to Callières, dated May 31, 1701, says on this point: "In regard to the 84, who had not yet rejoined last year, and the greater portion of whom had proceeded to the Mississippi, his Majesty has been informed of the reasons that have detained them in the woods, and has been pleased to take it into favorable consideration, being strongly persuaded that the clemency he is pleased to extend to them will engage them to a more prompt obedience in future. What has induced his Majesty the more to listen to their excuses has been the resolution he has adopted to form a settlement at the lower end of the Mississippi. He proposes to place those people there, and in that way to lay the foundations of that Colony, which has become to him an indispensable necessity, in order to prevent the progress which the English of Carolina and New York have begun to make in the territories intervening between them and that River. But as he is desirous of preventing that Colony being injurious to Canada, his Majesty will issue orders to oblige the Canadians who have repaired thither to pay their debts. He will prohibit them also from hunting Beaver; and as they actually have some of that article, and have not been informed of the prohibition his Majesty has concluded on, he has permitted the Deputies of the Quebec company, at present in France, to send a clerk to the Mississippi to receive and pay for all the Beaver that will be brought thither pending this and next year, to prevent its being conveyed to the English, and in order that such trade remain in the same hands." The king also writes, a year later: "Being desirous to employ usefully the means which could be put in operation to prevent their being lost and going over to the English, his Majesty had permitted them to re-