

1701: CADILLAC'S DETROIT COLONY; APPROVED BY JESUITS.

[Letters of missionaries to Cadillac. MSS. (copies) in the archives of Province of Quebec; and in those of St. Mary's College, Montreal. The French text of most of these documents was published by Margry, in vol. v of *Découv. et établ.*]

AT MISSILIMAKINAK, July 25, 1701.

MONSIEUR—After having in fact desired for so many years the settlement of Detroit, as you write, the letter that you have done me the honor of writing to convey the happy news to me could only be very agreeable. I would deem it a pleasure to proceed at once to render you all the services in my power, did the state of this mission permit of it. But you know that everybody here has gone down to Montreal for the general meeting to be held there. It is necessary to await their return before anything can be done; for no other steps can be taken than those they would themselves have taken with Monsieur the Governor, in connection with the design of their approaching migration, of which they did not fail to tell him, in order to ascertain his wishes on the subject. Meanwhile, I can assure you that wherever I may go, whether directly to Detroit or to the neighborhood, I shall always be fully disposed to show you effectively by everything in my power that I remain with respect,¹ Monsieur,

Your very Obedient Servant,

ETIENNE DE CARHEIL,
of the Society of Jesus.

AT MISSILIMAKINAK, July 28, 1701.

MONSIEUR—You do me the justice of believing that I will contribute as far as lies in my power to the settlement at Detroit; and that, if I cannot do it otherwise, I will do so at least by the feeble aid of my prayers to the Lord. In addition to

¹Note on margin, by La Mothe-Cadillac: "By this letter Father de Carheil, the missionary of the Hurons at Missilimakinak, proves the necessity, in his own opinion, of the settlement at Detroit; for he admits that he has desired it for many years, and learns the news with pleasure."