

## 1702: MIAMIS INTRIGUE WITH ENGLISH TRADERS.

[Letter of Father Jean Mermet<sup>1</sup> to Cadillac. From Margry's *Découv. et établ.*, v., pp. 219-21.]

AT RIVIERE ST. JOSEPH, April 19, 1702.

MONSIEUR—Although I have not the honor of being known to you, I nevertheless write to you about an important matter regarding the welfare of both the Colony and Religion; and thereby you will see, Monsieur, that the Jesuits are better friends of yours than you think, unless you yourself will not honor them with your kind remembrance, and, if I may venture to say, with your friendship.

Five of our Miamis are going to the English to obtain some goods which they will bring here this summer. Never have we seen them so eager for hunting Beaver as since they have received fine collars brought on behalf of the English by the Iroquois who have come here. This is for the purpose of obtaining from our Miamis permission to establish freely a post 3 days' journey from here, near a river which is the source of the Ouabache, where there is only a portage of half a league to be crossed to reach this river, and a similar one to reach another river which flows to the Detroit. From that place the English might go and bring in all the Savages of our lakes from all sides.<sup>2</sup>

At this last River [Maumee], which flows to the Detroit, Quarante-sous<sup>3</sup> (who will not fail to inveigh against Father de Carheil, and who is the soul of all the intrigues of our Miamis) is to establish himself, 20 or 30 leagues from Detroit, and he has also given very considerable presents in token of the alliance

<sup>1</sup>Jean Mermet, coming to Canada in 1698, was sent to aid Aveneau in the Miami mission where he spent some three years. In 1702, he went with Juchereau to his new post at the mouth of the Ohio; after that officer's death (1704), Mermet went to Kaskaskia, and passed the rest of his life in the Illinois mission, where he died Sept. 15, 1716.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup>The place thus designated must have been in the southern part of Noble county, Ind.—a district whence flow streams tributary to the St. Joseph, Maumee, and Wabash rivers.—Ed.

<sup>3</sup>A marginal note by Cadillac, written on this document, claims that Mermet confounds the identity of the Huron chief here mentioned with that of another chief bearing the same French nickname.—Ed.