

that the Hurons and the Miamis of this [St. Joseph] river wish to conclude together. The said Quarante-sous will have the choice of trading with the English or the French. To do this more freely, it is reported that he intends to go to ask Monsieur de Callières for permission to carry on trade alone, and to say that the reason why he does not settle closer to Detroit is that he may not deprive the French of the advantage of hunting, or for fear that he may cause inconvenience to the French, who have sheep, cows, and other domestic animals which his children would be unable to refrain from killing, if they were nearer; but he does not intend to reveal the alliance that he meditates with the English, or the anger to which he proposes to give vent some day against the Outaouas. He has not even been able to avoid saying to some of his confidants that the French prevented him from revenging himself upon the Outaouas, but that the English might help him. You may judge by this, Monsieur, what reliance can be placed on the reports of Savages. You might however, Monsieur, not let it be known that the report I send you comes from us, for it might induce him to do us harm.

But in writing you this, Monsieur, I thought I should do you a service. You may be sure that he will not fail to deny so villainous a plot; but, if you think that I am interested, and if you cannot wholly trust me, obtain information elsewhere, and be on your guard against the Hurons.

I take the liberty of sending you some letters on the same subject for Monsieur the Governor, and Monsieur the Intendant, and our Superior. I beg you to send them as soon as possible. Should I have the opportunity, you will see very well how much I am, Monsieur

Your very humble and very obedient servant,

JEAN MERMET.

In order to succeed, I beg you, Monsieur, to be as diligent as possible, either in yourself writing or in sending our letters to the authorities. I consider the matter so certain and so important that, if your man had not left for Detroit, I would have started expressly to go down to Missilimakinac, and thence perhaps to Quebec, lest your man might have been stopped by the