

savages. I am writing the same thing via Michillimakinak, but that way will be much longer. Therefore be diligent, I beg of you.¹

1702: MIAMIS UNWILLING TO GO TO DETROIT.

[Letter from Aveneau to Cadillac. From Margry's *Découv. et établ.*, v, pp. 239, 240.]

FROM THE RIVER ST. JOSEPH, June 4, 1702.

MONSIEUR—No sooner had I received last year the letter that Monsieur the Governor did me the honor of writing to me respecting the French establishment at Detroit (in which he invites the Savages, including the Miamis, to go and settle near the French at the post of Detroit), than I read it to them in their own language, without concealing any of the contents of the letter from them. And now, when I remind them of it, they tell me that it is true that I read it to them; and that I added that, if they went to settle at Detroit, I also would certainly go thither, as I would not consent to abandon them. They replied that they were afraid, amid so large a concourse of people, of being reduced to starvation in a short time, although the prospect of obtaining cheap goods there did not fail to produce a great impression on them.

The news that 100 or 200 Iroquois are to come here next summer to speak to them—which St. Michel told me to tell them

¹ Note by Cadillac: "Behold the Gordian knot of this important matter, of which Monsieur de Lamothe was already informed. Two captains, who are Sieurs de la Forest and Tonty, made a rendezvous at Missilimakina, in the month of July, 1701, and there they formed, with the Jesuits, the project of establishing a post on the river where the Miamis are located, with the view of causing the ruin of the Detroit post. That is why the Missilimakinak missionaries invited the Savages to go to settle there; and it was resolved that this Father Mermet, with Father Davenaut, [d'Aveneau], should give this alarm to Monsieur de Lamothe. The Jesuits secured an influence over Monsieur de Champigny and the two officers of Monsieur de Callières, all with the intention of obliging Monsieur the Governor-general to send a strong garrison to the Miamis to begin that post, under the pretext that the English would come there."