

on their behalf, and that they themselves had said this to him last year when they went down to Montreal. I have no doubt that your surprise on hearing such a decision will equal mine.

With regard to the Hurons, Quarante Sous must inform you of what conclusion he has come to with them. Although Father de Carheil went to see him as soon as he arrived, he would deign neither to call him to his council nor to come and see him, except for form's sake, on the eve of his departure—that is to say, about eight days after his arrival, during which time the Father deemed it necessary to ignore everything, and to know nothing until after his departure, in order to give rise to no suspicion. This is what he is reduced to in his own mission. He has no other consolation than that which comes from God, the true Judge of his innocence. I hope to show you by deeds that I remain, with respect and sincerity, Monsieur,

Your very humble and very obedient servant,

JOSEPH J. MAREST.¹

1703: IMPORTANCE OF POST AT DETROIT.

[Extract from letter of Louis XIV to Canadian officials; dated May 30, 1703.]

He has seen what they have written respecting the expense incurred by the Company of the Colony for Detroit. He is very glad to learn that it has not been a charge to him during the last year. The information laid before his Majesty regard-

¹ Note by Cadillac: "As regards the Savages of Missilimakinak, these are suppositions of the Father, since the Outaouois Sinago tribe have secretly sent a collar to Monsieur de Lamothe, to tell him that they will come, after they have harvested their Indian corn, to settle at Detroit. Moreover, since Father Marest's letter a Huron chief has come, with thirty men, to join those who are at Detroit; so there remain at Missilimakinak only about twenty-five of that tribe, besides poor Father Carheil—and he wishes to die as a missionary to the Hurons at Missilimakinak, at whatever price, even if there were no other person remaining with him. If Monsieur de Lamothe be left to act according to the customs of the Savages—that is, through presents and collars—he will bring them all to Detroit."