

1706: ILLICIT TRADE; FRENCH POLICY TOWARD INDIAN TRIBES.

[Letter of Count de Pontchartrain to Governor de Vaudreuil.]

VERSAILLES, 9th June, 1706.

SIR—I have received your despatches of the 3^d and 5th of May and of the 16th and 19th of October of last year, with the papers thereunto annexed.

I am fully persuaded that you will be pleased to entertain for Messieurs de Raudot¹ the consideration and friendship I requested for them; and that they, on their part, will not omit any thing to deserve the same.

It is certain that you have nothing so important in the present state of affairs as the maintenance of peace with the Iroquois and other Indian nations, and his Majesty will approve all the measures you will adopt to that end; but it will be always necessary that you effect it with the dignity suitable to yourself and without evincing any fear to them. His Majesty approves your sending Sieur Jonquieres to the Iroquois, because he is esteemed by them, and has not the reputation of a Trader; but, you ought not to have sent Sieur Vincennes² to the Miamis, nor Sieur de Louvigny,³ to Missilimaquina, as they are accused of carrying on contraband trade. You are aware that the said

¹The intendant Beauharnais was superseded by two men named Raudot—Jacques the father, and Antoine Denis the son; their joint term of office lasted from September, 1705, to the summer of 1710. Antoine then returned to France, and Jacques remained in Canada another year.—Ed.

²Louis Thomas de Joncaire (Jonquieres) came to Canada when a mere boy, and served first as an Indian interpreter, then as a lieutenant in the army; as such, he was especially employed among the Seneca Indians, who adopted him, and regarded him as one of their chiefs. He died probably about 1737.

Jean Baptiste Bissot, sieur de Vincennes, an officer in the army of Canada, was prominent in Detroit and Illinois affairs, and possessed great influence with the savages. He was commandant among the Miamis in 1697, and for several years thereafter, and was often sent on special missions to that tribe. His death occurred in 1719.—Ed.

³Documents recounting this episode in Louvigny's career are given in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, v, pp. 67-77.—Ed.