

They replied that I could, and urged me to do so, seeming to take an interest in the Fathers who are there. The truth is, they do not feel at liberty to make war upon the Miamis while the missionaries remain there, and for that reason would prefer that they should come to us. I had previously engaged some Frenchmen to carry the news to the river St. Joseph, and to relieve our Fathers if they were in any difficulty; but one of them has been so much intimidated by the representations of his friends, that he dare not trust himself among the savages. As affairs are at present, I do not think the removal of the Fathers is advisable, for that is the most important post in all this region except Michilimackinac; and if the Outawas were relieved from the restraint imposed upon them by the existence of the mission, they would unite so many tribes against the Miamis, that in a short time they would drive them from this fine country.

All the old men of this village who are friendly to the French, among whom is Koutaouiliboe, have behaved so well during all the trouble at Detroit, that they deserve to be rewarded for their zeal. Koutaouiliboe has long been our friend. He possesses sound sense and a good reputation, and has affection enough for us to deserve our consideration. He desires me to say, to you in particular, that he cannot settle all these bad affairs alone; and he wishes you, next autumn, to send the French chief you intend for them, and they will pay the amount in beaver. They no longer know where to find martens and wild-cats.<sup>1</sup> He says, they all wish to have no more difficulties here.

Onaské wishes me to inform you that "the reason he has appeared to grow remiss, was from the fear that some trouble might occur in his absence, and there would be no one to settle it." He says, that "while he was at the Isle en Huronne, the small-pox desolated his village and he invited the Kickapoos of Detroit to return here; but they did not obey him, and now they have been killed by the Hurons. He took the French in his arms, when the people who came from Detroit had a bitter heart toward them; for that reason I found them in good

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<sup>1</sup> *Chat sauvage*, the raccoon; a valued and staple pelt.—ED.