

1706: INTERTRIBAL RELATIONS; FRENCH POLICY.

[Part of a letter from Governor de Vaudreuil to Count de Pontchartrain, dated Nov. 4, 1706.]

I have had the honor to inform you this spring, by way of Placentia,¹ that, in order to maintain the union between the Outtauois and the Iroquois, I sent back Sieur de Joncaire; also a canoe to Michilimackina in which I abstained from placing an Officer, in order to save expense and to remove, at the same time, all cause of complaint. Mess^{rs} Raudot and I agreed to put on board only an Interpreter and three hired men, with orders not to carry on any trade, and to follow the advice of Father Marest, who by the same occasion accompanied them up to his mission, agreeably to what I last year promised the Indians of Michilimakina. As I shall have the honor of giving you an account, hereafter, of the success of that voyage, I return to the Iroquois.

I am persuaded, My Lord, and there has not been a year that I have not had the honor to observe it to you, that the tranquillity of this Colony depends on the peace with these Indians. I neglect nothing to insure the continuance thereof but I dare assure you at the same time that I do so honorably, and without disparagement to the office I have the honor to fill. I cannot furnish you stronger proofs of that fact than by transmitting you the annexed speeches which the Senecas and other villages came to address to me regarding affairs that occurred at Detroit this year. You will find my answer there also.

Had I followed, My Lord, the first impulse of vengeance, I would not have hesitated to accept the proposal of the Iroquois, but when I reflect that the Outtauois of Michilimakina had no hand in the occurrences at Detroit, and that they would not even go in there—as you will see, My Lord, by what they told me by Sieur Boudor, and by my answers to Companisté and Le Brochet, the Chiefs who came down with him to place in my hands four prisoners to be restored to the Iroquois—I cannot,

¹Then the leading settlement in Newfoundland, and a resort for the French fishing-vessels, by which late or special mails were often sent to France.—Ed.