

My Lord, consent to give over to destruction a Nation that has been faithful to us in the last war, and has, in this affair at Detroit, perhaps, more bad luck than bad disposition.¹ I send you hereunto annexed the statement of Miscoualzy, one of the Outtaouis Chiefs, resident at Detroit, whom, however, I would not receive here as an envoy; also my answer to him as well as to Companisté, which appears to me sufficiently firm to protect me from the accusation of weakness. The difference consists, My Lord, in this—I speak in public, and have several interpreters, and cannot alter the truth nor shape words adapted to my subject in order to impose on you. I was not willing to adopt the course the Iroquois proposed to me at first, because having no news from Sieur de la Mothe since his departure, I could not determine what course he would adopt on arriving at his post; and as war has never been favorable to a new establishment, I did not wish that he should impute to me that I had destroyed him by letting loose the Iroquois. Secondly, as the latter assured me that their resolution was taken and that they had been to the English to advise them thereof at the same time they had come to Montreal, I was very glad to let the English know the extent of my influence over the minds of the Iroquois. I possessed still more than they, inasmuch as I had enough to make the Iroquois let go the hatchet, notwithstanding the resolution they had taken to attack the Outtaouis. But, My Lord, the real reason I had for answering the Iroquois as I had done, is that I reflect, if the Huron, the Miamis, and the Iroquois be

¹Some information regarding this affair may be gleaned from Richard's synopsis of documents in *Suppl. Canad. Archives*, 1899 (pp. 208, 210, 212), "De la Mothe would not go to Detroit before the spring, nor would La Forest; sent Sr. de Bourgmont" (Vaudreuil, 1705). "De Bourgmont cannot be blamed; but had Lamothe, La Forest, or de Tonty been at Detroit, the Outaouais would not have made their attack" (Vaudreuil, 1706). "Must make the Outaouais give satisfaction for having attacked the fort of Detroit and killed three Frenchmen; M. de Bourgmont, who was in command there, was incompetent" (Louis XIV, 1707). "The Outaouais who made the attack at Detroit have come to Montreal to sue for pardon. Refused to grant it to them unless they brought in the head of 'Pesant.' The affair has been finally placed in the hands of Sieur Lamothe, who will find some means of conciliating all parties" (Vaudreuil, 1707).—Ed.