

French. He will likewise acquire every information possible respecting the advantages of that post, so as to render an exact report thereupon when he returns.

His Majesty is informed that the English are endeavoring to seize the post at Niagara, and that it is of very great importance for the preservation of Canada to prevent them so doing, because, were they masters of it, they would bar the passage and obstruct the communication with the Indian allies of the French—whom, as well as the Iroquois, they would attract to them by their trade, and dispose, whenever they pleased, to wage war on the French. This would desolate Canada, and oblige us to abandon it.

It is alleged that this post of Niagara could serve as an entrepôt to the establishment at Detroit, and facilitate intercourse with it by means of a bark on lake Ontario; that, in fine, such a post is of infinite importance for the maintenance of the Colony of Canada, and that it can be accomplished by means of *Sieur de Joncaire*, whom *Monsieur de Vaudreuil* keeps among the Iroquois. His Majesty desires *Sieur d'Aigremont* to examine on the spot whether the project be of as great importance for that Colony as is pretended; and in such case, to inquire with said *Sieur de Joncaire*, whether it would be possible to obtain the consent of the Iroquois to have a fort and garrison there, and, conjointly, make a very detailed report of the means which would be necessary to be used to effect it, and of the expense it would require; finally to ascertain whether it would be desirable that he should have an interview with said *Sieur Joncaire*, and that they should have a meeting at Niagara.

It has been attempted to give his Majesty to understand that *Monsieur de Vaudreuil* keeps the said *Sieur de Joncaire* among the Iroquois for the purpose of trading there, and of destroying the establishment at Detroit. His Majesty appears to be of a contrary opinion. Nevertheless he will not fail to inform himself of the conduct of said *Sieur de Joncaire* so as to be able to report thereupon.

Mess^{rs} de *Vaudreuil* and *Raudot* have informed his Majesty that they have thought proper not to farm fort Frontenac, and to retain it for his Majesty's account, being persuaded it will