

1707: POLICY TOWARD INDIAN TRIBES.

[Letter from Governor de Vaudreuil to Count de Pontchartrain; dated July 24, 1707.]

The attack on the Miamis by the Outtaouis last year, back of Detroit, appeared to have embroiled the affairs of the Upper Countries so much the more, as not only divers Indian Nations both on one side and the other found themselves implicated, but as we were ourselves interested in it, having lost in the action a Missionary and a Soldier. I had the honor to report to you at the time of the occurrence, the circumstances which attended it, and the reasons that obliged me, not to manage the Outtaouis, but to endeavor not to lose them altogether, under the apprehension I entertained that they would be some day necessary to us, and that it was no longer time to deliberate on the propriety of attaching them to our interests. I had the honor, My Lord, last autumn to send you a copy of what the Outtaouis had authorized one Miscouaky, and afterwards Sieur Boudor, to say to me, to exonerate themselves in some sort from the deaths of the Recollect Father¹ and the Soldier.

The peace of this Colony, as well as its interest, requiring tranquillity rather than war among all the Indian Nations, I have considered it for the King's service to seek for means of accommodating this affair, without it appearing, however, that we were insensible to the blow received from the Outtaouis. You have been able to perceive, My Lord, from my answers to Miscouaky last fall, that without consenting to listen to the reasons he gave me on the part of Jean le Blanc his brother, one of the principal Outtaouis chiefs, I did not make him despair, either, of all hope of pardon; giving him, however, to understand that after the insult the Outtaouais had offered me in killing my Missionary and my Soldier, it is not an easy matter to appease me, and that French blood is not paid for by Beavers or Belts. Nothing could do that, but an entire

¹This was Father Nicolas Constantin, one of the Récollet priests whom Cadillac, not liking the Jesuits, had brought to Detroit.—ED.