

the arrival of M. Louvigny, feeling assured that he will not come without a garrison. M. Lignery says the allied nations have gone to war with the Foxes, and he will give the result of the expedition when they return.

It does not appear that the war among the nations requires much attention at present, as no action can be taken in the matter till the final result is known. Let us now examine the advantages which, there is reason to hope, will be derived from the reëstablishment of Michilimackinac, and whether it is best to send M. Louvigny there with troops, or without. It is certain that troops cannot be sent there at present, because their expenses for clothing and other necessaries would be very great, and there is no order from the king for such an outlay. Nor does it seem best to send M. Louvigny without troops, as, by the letter of M. Lignery, it appears that the principal object of the journey of M. Louvigny would be to bring a garrison with him, that he might be able to overcome the forty *coureurs des bois*, who will remain masters there as long as there are no troops.

Under existing circumstances, it seems far better that the journey of M. Louvigny should be deferred until spring. If he should attempt the journey this fall, he must leave between this and the 15th of next month—and should he be two months in ascending the river, as the canoes were last year, he would not reach Michilimackinac before the 15th of November. The savages would then be hunting, and would not return till May, when they come to plant their corn; and not till then could M. Louvigny hold a council with them concerning the affairs of the colony.

M. Louvigny could not undertake the journey at his own expense. Provisions and clothing for himself and the troops, and presents for the savages, would require a considerable sum, and there are at present no funds, the storehouses are empty, and all kinds of merchandise are very dear. By waiting until spring, he would be able to supply himself from the stores which His Majesty will send this autumn. Besides, the principal object of the journey of M. Louvigny being the reëstablishment of Michilimackinac—which has been delayed until the peace,¹ because it was not considered expedient to weaken

¹The treaty of Utrecht, ratified April 11, 1713.—ED.