

Feared that, if we remain any longer inactive, as we have done for the past two years, it may slacken the ardor of some of these savage nations and lead them to take the Reynards' side; and that we may get no satisfaction for the acts of hostility which they have committed against the French. This impunity will render us contemptible in the eyes of all the other nations. After much reflection on the part of Monsieur the Marquis de Vaudreuil and of Monsieur Begon in regard to this war, they have evidently recognized that they could not refrain from undertaking it, without Risking the alienation of part of the savages and the loss of the trade. They see that they must set out to march against the Reynards to reduce them, in order to teach the savages that one cannot insult the French with impunity; and to show them, besides, that the latter join with them to ensure their repose and enable them to hunt unmolested in future.

It is even Disadvantageous that Monsieur de Louvigny did not arrive early enough to go thither this autumn; to remedy this, I have agreed with Monsieur the Marquis de Vaudreuil to send two boats this fall (one to Monsieur de Lignery at Michilimakinac, and the other to detroit), to re-assure all these savage nations, and to notify the French fugitives to join in this Expedition next summer,—in case the reynards do not take the proper steps for making an advantageous peace with the consent of all the nations,—arms in hand, and with all possible dignity. I will give orders in conformity with this to M. de Louvigny when he sets out next summer.

His presence is not only necessary at Michilimakinac for this Expedition, but I have learned, through Sieur de liette, who commands among the Illinois, that Sieur de bourmont, and two men named bisaillon and bourdon, lead a life not only scandalous but even Criminal in many ways. In the first place they have opposed the project of Sieurs de liette and de Vinsenne, which was to make peace between the illinois and the myamy. These gentlemen state that they would have succeeded in this but for the obstacles raised by these seditious men, who have fomented dissension between these two nations. This peace is all the more necessary, as we hope that they will furnish nearly fifteen