

ployed in this Expedition would be allowed the privilege of Exclusive trade in the upper country during two years.

This project did not seem feasible to us, as we know that those who made this proposition to *Sieur de Lignery* can have no other object than to make their own profit during those two Years of exclusive trade in the upper country, always finding some specious pretext to excuse themselves for having undertaken nothing against the *Renards*. Besides, it does not seem at all probable that we can send as many Savages as he asks, on account of the expense of equipping them and of supporting their families during their absence. However, we have judged it necessary that the 200 Frenchmen should go up to *Michilimakinak* with *Monsieur de Louvigny*, having their Canoes laden half with merchandise and half with provisions, so as to Intimidate the *Renards* and incline them, if possible, to sue for peace; and also to preserve the friendship and esteem of Our allies, by showing them that we are always Able and ready to second them in this war—which, in Fact, can not be ended save with the consent and pleasure of all the nations. We do not doubt that *Monsieur de Louvigny* will seek to accomplish this, with all the prudence and dexterity possible; and, in confident expectation of this, *Sieur de Ramesay* will give him no precise orders either for war or peace, or in regard to the measures and cautions to be employed; he Leaves him free to do whatever may seem to him most fitting when he is on the Ground and knows the circumstances. In the permits granted to these 200 Frenchmen, they will be enjoined to obey his orders, whether he wishes to keep them in case he thinks he needs them, or to send them back in case they prove useless. He will carry the same orders to those who have remained in the upper country. *Sieur Begon* has promised to furnish him with everything necessary for the success of his voyage.

If he succeed next year in making a peace, he can dismiss all the French who are there; but he can not avoid permitting all those who go up next spring to remain there until the autumn of 1717, so as to give them time to trade off the merchandise that they carry thither. This can not be refused them, since it is