

just that they should indemnify themselves for the expense that they incur for this expedition; but he will oblige those who have wintered this year in the upper country to come down with him.

As our present necessity of letting the French go into the upper country will no longer exist, if peace is made next year with the Renards, we shall be able in 1717, to execute the orders of the King in regard to the fifteen licenses which His Majesty has granted. But it is not possible that any use can be made of them next year, because we could not sell them; for the French who wish to go to the upper country have the means of doing so without cost—that is, to follow Monsieur de Louvigny and execute his orders. And even if we were to find any who wished to purchase them, it would only be on condition of having entire liberty to carry on their trade without being obliged to join his forces; for it is not to be presumed that any would present themselves and give money for these licenses if they were obliged, like the others, to share in the movements ordered by Monsieur de Louvigny. Moreover, it might lead to dangerous consequences to excuse any, as we should no longer be able to control the others.

It is for this reason that Sieur de Ramesay grants no licenses for detroit; and as he was obliged this fall to give permits for six Canoes, under the conduct of about twenty-five men,—upon representations made to him by Monsieur de Sabrevois, who maintained that without that help the post would be abandoned,—he will give orders to the holders of those permits, and to the other Frenchmen at that post, to join Monsieur de Louvigny and to obey his orders; whether he wage war or send them back to Montreal. But that post [Detroit] being too important to be left defenceless, Sieur de Ramezay will send thither ten soldiers, including five who have gone up with Monsieur de Sabrevois, and will furnish them the same supplies as those of the garrison of Michilimakinak. Therefore Sieur de Sabrevois, who will not have to incur any expense for the service of the King, ought to be satisfied if the King grants him two Canoes, which will enable him to subsist more easily than at Montreal. This is a stand which we can but take until the af-