

reports that they are living there at their ease; as grain thrives in that region they have built a mill, and have a great many cattle.¹ They get as many savage slaves as they wish, on the River of the Missouri, whom they use to cultivate their land; and they sell these to the English of Carolina, with whom they trade. This settlement is a dangerous one, serving as a retreat for the lawless men both of this Colony and of Louisiana. But as we see no possibility of preventing it, we believe, Monseigneur, that we might render it useful for the service of the King and of the Colony by sending there a dozen Soldiers, Commanded by an officer, who could build a fort there, and gradually establish order among those Frenchmen. With them he would be able to oppose the building of forts by the English, and all the enterprises carried on by them in that territory, which has been considered as French since the founding of the Colony. As it is only about sixty Leagues from the Thamarois post to that of ouabache, the French in either could, in case of need, come to the help of the other. It would also be very useful to establish a post at Chicagou, to facilitate access to the Illinois and the miamis, and to keep those nations in our interests.

The orders which His Majesty has given to Monsieur de la Mothe Cadillac, to Establish a post among the Nakés² and another at Ouabache, will have a very beneficial Effect, and were absolutely necessary to arrest the enterprises of the English.

¹The Jesuit missionary Marest states, in 1712 (*Jes. Relations*, lxvi, p. 291), that cows had just been brought to Kaskaskia. It would appear, from our text, that cattle had been introduced at Cahokia (the Tamarois village) somewhat earlier.—Ed.

²The Natches (Nakés) Indians were living, when the Louisiana colony was founded, at the place where now stands the city of Natchez, Miss. A French trading-post was established among them in the spring of 1713, and in the following year Fort Rosalie was erected. Incensed by the tyranny of a French commandant, the Natches in 1729 massacred the white colonists; but, in retaliation for this, they were soon afterward almost destroyed by French troops, and the remnant of their tribe took refuge among the Creeks.

The name Ouabache here refers to the mouth of the Ohio river, where Miami and Mascouten bands had been settled since about 1698.—Ed.