

number about 300 warriors. They have committed many acts of hostility against the French. They were punished once by a detachment which set out from Detroit, to which the Miamis, the Outaouis, and the hurons joined their forces. But as the Renards resumed their hostile attitude, orders were given, in accordance with letters from Canada, to wage war on those savages, or to make peace with them, but to prefer peace to war, as the continuation of their hostile acts toward us brought upon us the contempt of the other nations. Their subsequent attack upon a French canoe in 1714, led us to believe that we could not make such a peace, and it was resolved to send a numerous force against them. For this reason some habitants,¹ who were allowed to carry with them some merchandise, were sent to serve in this war, as were some soldiers of the colony, who were to form the garrison of Michilimakinac. The *coureurs de bois* were assembled at Michilimakinac, and all together were to march with a troop of the Outaouis, Illinois, and Miami savages; but, as the detachment which went up from Montreal with the presents for the savages and the military supplies did not arrive by the end of August, it was impossible to undertake anything.

Monsieur de Louvigny had orders to go up to Michilimakinac to make war, or, if possible, peace; but the sickness he contracted last year prevented him from going. That officer writes that he will go up in the spring, and will labor to bring about either peace or war, according to circumstances. He says that peace is to be preferred to all else, but that he will make it only with honor to the nation. He adds that the lawlessness of the *coureurs de bois* is so great that it is absolutely necessary to make an example of some of them, in order to restrain them and to enforce upon them obedience to the officers in the upper posts. He says that this is not done at Montreal, and that there are even merchants of that city who have warehouses at Michilimakinac; that maintains the *coureurs de bois* in dis-

¹A term applied to the French colonists actually settled in Canada, as distinguished from the official and military class, who still considered themselves as belonging to the mother-country.—Ed.