

a truthful picture of the condition of each settlement; of the abuses that exist there; of the means, according to my lights, for remedying them. This I would not have ventured to undertake, if the orders with which I am charged did not impose this duty on me.

Since I am honored with a Commission and charged with your orders, permit me, My Lords, to explain the difficulties in the way of executing them, and the remedies to be applied. I had foreseen them several years ago. Since that time affairs have come to such a pass that it is necessary to display as much Severity as we have employed indulgence, If we wish to avert the evils of a war which will not fail to arise between the Savages and the French.

When the posts were established in the upper country, through the wise foresight of Monsieur the Marquis de Vaudreuil, it was with the intention that a Certain number of Licenses, granted under Specified conditions for trading with the Savages of each place, should not be valid in other posts; so that the French who obtained these Licenses would ensure the safety of the posts to which they were assigned, Without Being allowed to Roam with the savages in the woods and to Infringe on the limits of the other posts.

These just regulations are transgressed by the greed of the Coureurs de Bois, a greed prejudicial to the state, to good order, and to Trade. The impunity with which they have violated the law seems to constitute an authority for these voyageurs, against whom it will be necessary to fix a severe and exemplary penalty, to be visited upon all offenders On valid accusation and report by the officers in command at the forts, and by the Missionaries.

The Trade in brandy, which My Lords absolutely prohibit, is the Cause of all the troubles among the Savages, among whom there are no laws, and no punishments beyond the will to do harm.

The Savages no longer Think of hunting in order to clothe Themselves but only to get drink. Brandy is making them poor and miserable; sickness is killing them off; and they slay one another on very slight provocation, and without any penalty