

of our examples. Indeed, they would Conform with these, if they were not led astray by the Coureurs de bois, who refuse to obey the orders given to them.

You order me, My Lords, to establish union among these Nations, and I will do my best; but that they can be restrained from pursuing their ideas of revenge, which are Often very Capricious, and from exercising their ferocity, is a thing which I believe impossible. It would be necessary to change their natures. It is more expedient for the repose of all the Europeans to let the Savages who have a war between themselves fight it out, rather than to undertake to concern ourselves with their quarrels. We should reserve to ourselves only the quality of Mediators, whenever they have recourse to the Mediation of the French; for, no matter what agreement the latter may secure between these Nations to reconcile them, they observe it only as long as they choose to, and the Caprice of an individual can break it off at a moment's notice. When they wish to end a war among themselves, they know better than We the means for Ending it; and if by chance we Are obliged to take a hand in the matter, How much merchandise, how much expense and activity are necessary! which are very often of no avail, on account of the little confidence that can be reposed in those peoples.

To succeed, it would be necessary that the French remain in the posts to which they are assigned, without Roaming in the woods. It may easily happen that a band of hostile savages, coming to attack those whom the French accompany in the woods, may fall upon and Kill the latter also, as they come and go. Those Savages will think it sufficient excuse to say that it was a mistake. That has happened this year; but it would not have happened save for the disobedience and Caprice of the Coureurs de bois, who violate repeated orders, which they openly mock.

The Savages to justify themselves, say: "Why do we find the Frenchman on our war-path? He carries powder and weapons to our enemies." Now, to obviate these embarrassing occurrences, there would be necessary, I venture to suggest, My Lords, a prohibition issued by the Council and published through the whole country, which should inflict Material pun-