

own advantage. There have, however, been a few who have Disobeyed, but they were people who had failed on account of their own Misconduct, and who had acted thus because they intended to pass over into the government of Louisiana. They have even gone there without Repaying the merchants who had Equipped them, in order to have more liberty to Continue their Careers as *coureurs de bois*—which was very easy, as they found Merchandise among the Illinois for a new Equipment, and, as Monsieur De boisbriant did not refuse to give them licenses to continue their Expeditions. As soon as I was informed of These Enterprises, I wrote to That Commandant that I was greatly Surprised; and I represented to him at the same time that, Since I did not issue any permits to trade in the Illinois country, he ought not to issue any, especially to fugitives from Canada, to come and trade with the savages dependant on my Government; and I added that if those traders were met in Any of those posts dependent upon my government, their property would be seized, in accordance with The orders I had given in Regard to people of that sort. This statement, made to Monsieur De boisbriant, is doubtless the source of the assertion made in the Louisiana letter to the effect that The voyageurs were hampered by not being allowed to trade in any other posts than those designated by their licenses; For, since 1720, I have not issued any Permits for trading; but there were some of those which I had granted previously which could not be used until 1721 and 1722. This was because the families that had obtained them, being themselves unable to use them, and being allowed to sell them, had at first been unable to dispose of them; or, if they had sold them, The voyageurs who bought them found themselves unable to obtain among the merchants the assortment of merchandise necessary for their Equipment and had been unable to set out earlier. It may be also the delay in the Departure of these Licensed Traders that has given ground for Believing that I have Continued to issue licenses after his Majesty has Suppressed them.

There are no longer any other permits than those (which have always been granted) for the Canoes that go to carry sup-