

[Across the outer sheet of this letter is written the following, apparently the Minister's directions to his secretary:]

Answer him:

1st.—That he must prevent the Abenakis from going into the upper country; that this is altogether opposed to our interests, and that he ought to have taken every possible Measure to prevent it from the start.

That he must take measures to end the affair of the renards, and that he ought for this purpose to send to la Baye, to take command there, an officer of experience, who is absolutely Trustworthy; that *Sieur de la Noue*¹ would seem a proper person for that post. That the continuation of that war gives ground for judging that there is little effort made to finish it; that His Majesty will recompense The officer who shall Reduce the Renards to submission,—or rather, who will destroy them,—as His Majesty expressly desires this. The company of the indies² has 30 picked soldiers in Illinois, who will march

¹The identity of this officer cannot be satisfactorily established. Tanguay mentions one Zacharie Robutel, *sieur de la Noüe*; he was born in 1665, and died after 1705. He had several sons, only one of whom is mentioned by Tanguay as having military position; this was Thomas, born in 1702, an ensign, who died in 1754. Apparently it is Zacharie who in 1692 was at Michillimackinac, and in 1717 was sent to establish a post at the western end of Lake Superior, and to explore the lakes beyond it. Having built a fort at Kaministiquoia (near the present Port Arthur, Ont.), he remained in command there until 1721, when he was relieved. In 1727 one *Sieur de la Noüe* (who was probably a son of the preceding) was appointed to command at Green Bay; but Governor Beauharnais did not send him thither, as the Jesuits assured him that *La Noüe*, "although very capable and deserving, had the misfortune to be not acceptable to the Tribes at that post; and to be regarded with suspicion by the Renards, their allies." It is probably this man who is mentioned in *N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, ix, 1042, as dead in 1734; and Thomas, son of Zacharie, as approving an expedition against the Foxes in 1742 (p. 1086).—Ed.

²This was a commercial company, formed in France in 1717—at first, under the title of *Compagnie d'Occident* (Company of the West)—by the well-known adventurer John Law. Its objects were, to exploit the Louisiana colony, and to form colonies on the Mississippi river; but the scheme proved burdensome and unmanageable, and the company surrendered its charter to the crown in 1731, Louisiana thus becoming a royal province.—Ed.