

promptest Way. By so doing You would oblige Him who has  
The honor of being most sincerely,

Monsieur, Your very Humble and very obedient Servant,

DE VILLEDONNE.

AT THE FORT OF THE RIVER ST. JOSEPH this 4th October, 1724.

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MONSIEUR—In Concert with Monsieur De Villedonné, and in Accordance with the intention of Monsieur De Vaudreuil and Monsieur de Lignery and amariton, I had the honor of Writing to you by oubessebau who will reach you this winter, with reference to the peace which those Gentlemen wish to make between the Renard and the illinois. It is for the purpose of giving you notice of it that I send you this letter By way of the [post] Ouiatanon, with the Consent of Monsieur De Villedonné; and, at the same time, to give you a summary of the Contents of the letters of those Gentlemen and of our fathers [the Jesuits]. Monsieur Delignery, after obtaining from the Renard a peace with the sauteurs and the Lake tribes, Undertook to have one Concluded also with The illinois, promising Them to have Their Slaves Restored to them—who, they complained, had been Kept back from them at the peace of 1716. The Renards would not Consent in spite of his threats in the name of Monsieur the Marquis de Vaudreuil; and added That The illinois had Treated Them too badly, and had broken their word to them too often, to permit them to lay down the War-club they had lifted Against that tribe. Those Gentlemen see no prospect of securing the peace that they would like to make universal, Unless you help them to get back those Slaves who are so much regretted, in the event of their Being Alive; or Unless you give them information to enable them to Convict the Renard of falsehood. That Information they cannot obtain because they are not On the spot, and have only the Frenchman there who takes part in the negotiation Without the participation or Consent of the Renard. Should you Deem it advisable to act in Accordance with the Intentions of those Gentlemen, Ouabessebau will undertake, on his return, to Place the Slaves in the hands of Monsieur Devilledonné, who will send them to Monsieur De-