

quill, and in awe of us, it will be advisable: first, to deprive them of the refuge which they have provided among the Sioux; and for this purpose, to prevent any one from giving them any merchandise for which they may apply at the posts at la baie des Puants and at the river St. Joseph; and to effectually prevent this sale, it will be necessary to abolish these two posts, where the trade in brandy, as well as in merchandise, is notorious, the commandants having purchased these posts. Secondly, to block their passage to the Iroquois. Thirdly, to give loose rein to all the savages who may undertake to make war upon them, which will so weaken them that, having no means of defending themselves, they will be obliged to succumb entirely; and when we are established among the Sioux, the Renard will be forced, in spite of himself, to remain quiet. By these measures we may be spared the expense of a war, whose success is very doubtful, since the Renards have an assured refuge among the Sioux.¹

1727: FOXES PROMISE TO KEEP THE PEACE.

[Letter from Governor Beauharnois to the Minister; dated May 18, 1727. MS. in archives of Ministère des Colonies, Paris; press-mark, "Canada, Corresp. gén., vol. 49, c. 11, fol. 77."]

MONSEIGNEUR—In October last I had the honor to render you an Account of what had happened at la Baye since the journey made there last year by Monsieur de Lignery for the purpose of negotiating peace between the Renards and the Illinois. As I have not lost sight of the instructions that you did me the honor to give me concerning this affair, I had resolved to send Monsieur de Lignery back to la Baye this Spring, to complete his work and to strengthen a peace that did not as yet appear to be very firm. The Account that Monsieur du Plessis (who has succeeded Monsieur Amariton in the command of the post of la Baye) has given me of the present state of the Renards' affairs—sending me a Copy of the words spoken in my name

¹ Marginal note on MS.: "Approved, what they propose in order to secure peace, and to render it stable."