

I remain with very profound Respect, Monseigneur, Your very humble and very obedient Servant,

BEAUHARNOIS

QUEBEC, October 28th, 1730.

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1730: VICTORY OVER THE FOXES

[A letter of Nov. 2, 1730, from Beauharnois and Hocquart to the French Minister, giving news of De Villiers's victory, is to be found in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, v, pp. 107, 108.

The two following circumstantial accounts are translated from transcripts of MSS. in the archives of Ministère des Colonies, Paris, Collection Moreau-Saint Méry, vol. 9, f. 11, 1727-1731. There are in that volume five documents describing this defeat; but on examination these prove to be but two different accounts. The first, which is evidently from an Illinois source, is found in folios 140 and 322. The former is wrongly dated 1728, having been inserted by an ignorant archivist, who noted that date near the beginning of the document. That found in folio 322, bears date, Sept. 9, 1730; but as that was the day after the Foxes' sortie, as appears by the document, it seems probable that the latter portion was written some days later. The second document is a letter from De Villiers to Beauharnois, dated Sept. 23d, 1730; it is from folio 314. That in folio 324 is identical, and that of folio 312 an extract.]

The Renards, in Conjunction with the Maskoutins and quikapous, had waged open war upon us and our Savage allies for many years; they Surprised our detachments, carried off our Voyageurs, frustrated all our plans and Harassed us Even in our settlements, which we could Cultivate only with weapons at hand. Attempts had been made on several occasions to destroy them; But lack of Concert, the Spirit of self-interest, and the bad Management of those who at various times were Entrusted with That undertaking, always caused it to miscarry. Finally an event occurred that Brought about their disunion and the destruction of the renards.

In the month of October of The year 1728, A band of Quikapous and Maskoutins captured on the Missisipy seventeen Frenchmen who were going down from the Sioux to the Illinois.