

## 1731: PROJECT OF WAR AGAINST THE FOXES

[This memorial of De Noyan is endorsed "1731," probably the date of its reception in France. It was doubtless draughted before the news was received of the victory of 1730. MS. in archives of Ministère des Colonies, Paris; press-mark, "Canada, Corresp. gén., vol. 56, c. 11, fol. 340."]

*Plan of War for Canada Against the Renard Savages*

If there were reason to believe that the Renard Nation could Be Kept in a state of tranquility and obedience, And if we could Rely upon their faithful observance of the articles of a treaty of peace, I should enter into the Considerations that seem to call for gentle means, such as: the excessive expense of Such expeditions; the uncertainty of success And the disadvantage that would accrue to the Colony through the Misfortune of a war of That nature being unsuccessful; and I would Consequently Conclude with This general axiom: that peace is the wisest policy to be adopted. But the proofs We have of the little Confidence that can be placed in the deceitful protestations of These men who are independent of all laws; and the danger that lies in confiding in the word of These Savages, who are restricted by no rule of subordination, who are restrained by no government, And who See no shame in unfaithfulness and treachery; do Not allow of our taking anything into Consideration except the general interest of the Colony, in which I Include the shame cast upon the French Nation in connection with the last war;<sup>1</sup> for the Savages frequently impute to a mistake Events which chance alone renders Unfortunate. I Include the Necessity of putting an end to their insolent speeches on This subject, which are Calculated to give Rise to the greatest evils; the aid that we are obliged to Give our allies; the obligation that we have imposed on ourselves of putting an end to a war into which we have urged them, and the Evil that would result if our allies should succeed in destroying Those Renards with-

<sup>1</sup>De Noyan accompanied Lignery in the expedition of 1728. See pp. 21-35, ante.—Ed.