

taken by the Sieur du Buisson against That nation, of which his Majesty seems to disapprove by recommending him to expressly forbid the Commandants of Posts to take such steps in any Case. His majesty's intention will be observed in future, but he ventures to take The liberty of remarking to him, that after the failure of the expedition against the Renards in 1728, there seemed to Him no better way of destroying them than to give orders as he did to the officers at the posts to watch their actions, and to take advantage of the dispositions in which they might find the nations with regard to attacking the Renards; while he nevertheless explained to those officers that they were not to attempt anything unless there was some prospect of success, and that they were not to cause his Majesty to incur any great expense. It was in obedience to these orders that the Sieur de Villiers acted, and that we have succeeded in almost totally destroying that nation. Moreover, This affair that his Majesty entrusted to the Sieur De Beauharnois had to be carried out as he has done in order to comply with his Majesty's Designs of utterly destroying those savages, and to neglect nothing to attain that end. There seems to be no more suitable or less costly methods than those adopted by the Sieur de Beauharnois and he ventures to hope that his Majesty would always approve Him in such cases.¹

The Sieur De Beauharnois has deemed advisable not to await his Majesty's orders to have the Post re-established among the Scioux, which we had been obliged to abandon owing to its proximity to the Renards, through whose country we had to pass. The necessity of preserving the friendship of a nation which has given us proofs of its attachment by its conduct Toward the Renards, has led Him to forestall his Majesty's intentions in the Matter And to benefit by the advantages offered Him by the defeat of the Renards.

The Sieur De Beauharnois has the honor to submit to you, Monseigneur, the reasons that determined his action by a private letter to which he appends a note respecting the journey of the

¹Marginal note on MS.: "Extract with private letter."