

1733: LETTERS FROM UPPER COUNTRY INTERCEPTED; RAVAGES OF SMALLPOX

[Letter of Beauharnois to the French Minister, dated May 3, 1733. Source, same as preceding document, but vol. 59, c. 11, fol. 6.]

MONSEIGNEUR—I am unable to give you any news of what is going on in the Mississipi Country owing to an Accident that happened to those to whom Monsieur de Boishebert had entrusted the letters from that country. Two of our French who had resolved to return last winter on the ice, had an affair with the savages in which one of the latter was killed. He deserved his fate. As several of their comrades took part in it, our Frenchmen retraced their steps to Detroit. They were Robbed of all they had, and the letters that were in their packs were seized. I Hope, Monseigneur, that Monsieur de Boishébert has taken steps to have them found, and I shall act in accordance with the news I receive. The difficulty will I think, Monseigneur, be to create a diversion in that country so long as our savages are determined to utterly destroy the few Renards who are left.

I relied to a great extent on the Miamis, the Ouiatanons and the Peanguichias but the mortality among them may disturb my plans. They are nevertheless Requested to assist them. They must feel very well that their disaster is entirely due to the Brandy of the English.

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

BEAUHARNOIS

QUEBEC, May 3d, 1733.

I Had The honor, Monseigneur, of Writing you last year that smallpox had caused great ravages among the Iroquois. It Spread everywhere. Our savages who are settled at sault St Louis And the Lake of Two Mountains suffered from it. It afterwards extended to Montreal where it was very severe. There is no longer any question of it, But it is very prevalent here though Less Virulent.