

take the liberty, Monseigneur, of Sending It to you. You will see that there is no likelihood of its ever being possible to have any Trade with that Nation and that he acted properly in abandoning his fort; they [the garrison] would have Been Exposed daily to danger of perishing. It would be a great boon if we could destroy them [the Sioux] because they occupy the finest Hunting grounds. That officer assured me that if the Cristinaux, Monsonis, and Assiniboils had waged War Against Them last winter they would have defeated them all; that they expected this, and nearly died of hunger because they were afraid to hunt.

The Sieur De St Pierre told me that all the Attentions shown Them by the scioux in the spring of last year and The Eagerness they displayed to have Frenchmen amongst Them to supply their wants, Were intended solely to divert suspicion from the blow they were meditating.<sup>1</sup> He added that when the Sieur De la Verendrye, the younger, Was at the head of the Monsonis, Cristinaux, and Assiniboils, after he had refused to lead them those Nations Went Against the Scioux of the woods instead of the Maskoutins Poüanes, in order to Bring the French into their party.<sup>2</sup>

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I am greatly mortified, Monseigneur, at your not approving my nomination of the Sieur De Noyelles to the post of Commandant of Detroit. Had I known your intentions sooner I would have Sent another. I cannot however, Monseigneur, Refrain from representing to you that that officer is generally liked by all the French and savages, and that I have reason to

<sup>1</sup> The reference here, is to the attack on La Vérendrye's men at the Lake of the Woods.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> Two years before the massacre (1736), the younger La Vérendrye had joined a war-party of the Cree and Assiniboin against the Sioux. In the council he was proclaimed leader, an honor which he refused, and took no part in the hostilities. It was thought, nevertheless, that his massacre was an act of revenge on the part of the Sioux. The "Maskoutins Poüanes" were the Prairie Sioux (Maskoutepoels). See Jones, *Aulneau Collection* (Montreal, 1893), pp. 76, 94.—Ed.