

goods than their lives; and this compelled the said sieur de Saint Pierre to evacuate the post on the 30th of the month of May.

1737: COUREURS DES BOIS AT MACKINAC; PEACE FOR THE SAUK AND FOXES

[Extract from a letter from Beauharnois to the French Minister, dated Oct. 16, 1737, giving news of the conditions at the various posts. MS. in archives of Ministère des Colonies, Paris; press-mark, "Canada, Corresp. gén., vol. 67, c. 11, fol. 180."]

MONSEIGNEUR—

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The Sieur De Vercheres,¹ the Commandant at Missilmakinac, Wrote me on the 27th of last June that in the Vicinity of his fort there were nearly thirty coureurs de bois armed with **Swords, guns, and Pistols** wherewith to fight those who might

been continually exposed, of being massacred by the sakis and the renards, and numberless other hardships, borne heroically, have brought him so low, that even the savages, who have little pity for us, are forced to look upon him with feelings of compassion. We are, however, in the impossibility of attempting anything for his relief, owing to the scarcity of missionaries." Father Nau wrote Oct. 2, 1735: "Father Guignas is in the Sioux country at a little french fort with but six men with Him. Scarcely a month ago The marquis de Beauharnois, governor-general of new france, sent twenty-two men in four canoes with supplies of which he stood absolutely in need, for The Sioux refuse to provide for Him. It is not at all certain that The relief-party will reach him without molestation, their route lying close to the country of the renards." *Jes. Rel.*, lxxviii, pp. 233, 255, 257, 281.—Ed.

¹ Jean Jarret, Sieur de Verchères, was born in 1687, and must therefore have been a child when his sister Madeleine so bravely defended her father's fort against the Iroquois (1696). He was ensign in 1710, and in 1747 had earned the following enconium: "A worthy officer, who has often commanded in the upper posts, and has acquitted himself so well that he has always been employed by the General, whenever his services were required." He was sent at that date to command at La Baye, and to assist in putting down the rebellion at Mackinac. In 1750 he was given the cross of St. Louis; and in 1752 was in command at Fort Frontenac, dying the same year.—Ed.