

here. We Are glad to have Heard what our brothers have just said, and will report it in our village.

My Father, if all that has just been said is sincere, it pleases us greatly, because it can lead only to good Results.

My Father, it gives us great pleasure to Have come to see you and to Listen to your words, although we Are destitute of everything.

My Father, all of us, both old and young, have great joy in seeing you. We Hope that your breasts will flow In our favor.

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1740: CONDITIONS AT DETROIT

[Letter of De Noyan, commandant at Detroit, to the French Minister. Source, same as preceding document, but vol. 89, c. 11, fol. 194.]

DETROIT, August 6, 1740.

MONSEIGNEUR—It would be useless for me to undertake to give Your Grace a fair and accurate report on the condition of this post, on the advantages that might be derived from it and the measures that should be taken to have a considerable settlement here. I have not been here long enough. One hundred resident families can be counted here both in the town and in the country, that is to say about as many traders as farmers. The latter till the soil, But the small market they find for their produce compels them to be content with harvesting what suffices for their needs. The former, who are certainly too numerous, far from making Trade flourish, ruin themselves owing to the low price to which they have reduced their goods which are sold at the prices they cost in Quebec. They try and see who can sell them cheapest to get more Furs from the Savages. Nevertheless, the cost of transport is considerable. Hence it follows, Mon Seigneur, that as they cannot meet their engagements to the Montreal merchants who supply them, their goods and houses are sold every day for the benefit of the latter who have more mortgages in detroit than detroit is worth. Outside, the Savages threaten to withdraw; the hurons live ever in dis-