

1740: THE DETROIT HURON

[Extract from a letter of Father de la Richardie, Jesuit missionary at Detroit, to Father St. Pé, dated Detroit, Aug. 26, 1740.¹ Source, same as preceding document, but vol. 74, c. 11, fol. 268.]

REVEREND FATHER—An Outaouacs who goes to Choueghen [Oswego] for Brandy gives me an opportunity of sending this letter which I address to Monsieur de Boucherville, the Commandant of Niagara.² Perhaps I shall Write you another in a few days. I shall do so if a party of Bandits from the Sault come back from the Chicachas with some captives. I expect their arrival from day to day. As the Affairs of the hurons are those respecting which you are anxious for the fullest details, I will give them.

There is no Change in their project of going to Settle near you. The only thing that Hinders the Carrying out of the project, is Savage vanity that does not wish to appear to flee, and seeks to Conceal its fear, by saying to the neighboring Nations, that they are being Taken from their fire, in order that another may be Kindled for them. I am urged daily to Induce Monsieur the General to Send a message by which he will Remove them from here and settle them near him. This is but a pretext. The Truth is that they wish it to be the people of the Sault or of the Lake. The latter are no friends of mine as you may imagine. Thus, if Monsieur The General wishes to Grant their Prayer, the people of the Sault must be their Agents and their deputation must come here next spring to exercise the gentle pressure that is desired. The Drunkard Angouiroit alone, with three or four Cabins, is opposed to this Removal. It will not be difficult for me to Urge them to it if it is to be effected. If Monsieur the General does not approve this project, here is a second one that I am directed to submit to him. It is that, to allay their continual alarms, he allow

¹For sketch of Father Richardie, see *ante*, p. 102. Saint Pé was at this time superior of the Canadian missions, with headquarters at Montreal. See sketch, *ante*, p. 253.—Ed.

²For sketch of Boucherville, see *ante*, p. 36.—Ed.