

Minds of my Children,¹ and I will give you Tokens of My friendship for you and your villages. I have not Yet had time to have anything prepared. It has afforded me much pleasure to speak to you in the presence of Monsieur de Celoron, who starts tomorrow, and who will repeat my speech in your villages.

1741: CHEVALIER DE BEAUHARNOIS AT DETROIT; HURON
REMOVAL

[Letter of Chevalier de Beauharnois to his uncle, the Marquis de Beauharnois, dated Aug. 2, 1741. MS. in archives of Ministère des Colonies, Paris; pressmark, "Canada, Corresp. gén., vol. 75, c. 11, fol. 97."]

MY DEAR UNCLE—I found, on my arrival, only seven or eight decrepit old Men, and a village deserted and without warriors, as The chicachas have something over 160 at their heels. I have not yet entered deeply into matters; but judging by what I have been able to learn, all appear to be quite disposed to listen to everything, without being in a humor to make any positive answer before the return of this band. I Hear only things that are unpromising for the success of my enterprise; and if I can rely on what is said and thought by those who can and ought to know something about the matter, the hurons are now as indifferent and averse to coming down as they were formerly desirous and ready to do so. This contributes not a Little to making my position a most uncomfortable one. Incessantly occupied with the wheels that I try to set in motion in order to operate so crazy and anomalous a machine, I am expending all my rhetoric to win and to confirm minds, which the merest Bagatelle may disturb and divert. Finally, my dear uncle, whether it be ill-will on the part of the hurons, or frivolity and inconstancy, I discover, or to speak more to the point, I see through the fact, *that an arm more powerful than my own*

¹Note on original document: "Before leaving you will come and see me."