

1741: REMOVAL OF OTTAWA OF MACKINAC

[Letter from Beauharnois to the French Minister, dated Oct. 5, 1741.
Source, same as preceding document, but fol. 201.]

MONSEIGNEUR—The Sieur de Blainville who commanded at Missilimakinac in the absence of the Sieur de Celoron,¹ Wrote me on the 28th of December that the Savages of that Post were going to Settle at la grande Riviere,² which led him to decide upon following them and passing the winter with Them, with the view of bringing them back.

On the 4th of June following, he wrote me that they Had all returned with him, with the exception of a few who Had remained at the grande Traverse to inspect the Lands, which are very good at that Place.

On the 8th of July, the Chiefs of that Nation came down. I Explained to them my will with regard to the idea they had of Changing their Settlement. You will find my speech annexed hereto, Monseigneur.³

The Sieur de Blainville wrote me, on the 29th of the same month, that the Elders who Had remained at the grande Traverse had found the Land there so good that there was reason to believe it would be very difficult to make them return and settle at the Place where I wish them to establish their village.

The Sieur de Celoron wrote me on the 16th of August that those savages seemed very Eager to Settle on that land; that he foresees he will have great difficulty in getting them to alter their resolution; that, however, they will not Undertake anything without speaking to me.

He Wrote me on the 24th of the same month that the Sav-

¹Pierre Joseph Céloron was the elder son of Jean Baptiste de Céloron, sieur de Blainville. The Sieur de Blainville mentioned in this document was a younger brother, who bore the father's name as well as title; see *ante*, p. 207.—Ed.

²The Ottawa was sometimes called Grand River; but this reference is to the river in Michigan which still bears the name.—Ed.

³See *ante*, pp. 351-353.