

It is Extraordinary that measures so little Consistent with authority and dignity as those resorted to should be taken at present to Remove the hurons from Detroit. The opportunity should have been seized the moment the request was made, and they [the Hurons] should not have been so constantly refused as they were, only to be invited afterwards in a manner Burdensome to the French nation, without its being possible to obtain anything from Them.

The success of his mission will be confined to Taking with him three elders who will not say a word, and whom he has had great difficulty in persuading.

It is easy to see that Monsieur the Chevalier wished to Take that Mission from us that it might devolve upon his friend Monsieur Piquet,¹ who has already had some clearing done and some Cabins erected to receive them; but, whatever may happen, the hurons will never wish to have any other Missionaries than us.

The Reverend Father Superior, in Concert with Monsieur the general, had told me to Establish them on grosse Isle, where they would have been better than Anywhere else. I cannot account for the Change. I shall await patiently the orders he may Send me in connection with the matter.

¹François Picquet was born in Burgundy, 1708. He entered the Sulpician order at Paris and was ordained and sent to Canada in 1734. He spent five years at Montreal and ten more at the Sulpician mission of Lake of the Two Mountains. He then founded the mission and settlement of La Présentation near the present city of Ogdensburg, New York, for the purpose of securing the alliance of the Iroquois. At the end of two years four hundred Iroquois had settled there, and the number increased to three thousand. In 1760 Picquet returned to France rather than accept English allegiance.—Ed.