

My father, we deserve pity; when we break our guns and our axes we are obliged to throw them away because we have nobody to mend them. Therefore we beg you to give us a blacksmith for our village.

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*Reply of Monsieur the Marquis de Beauharnois, Governor-General of New France, to the speech of the Outaouacs of Missilimakinac, of the band of la fourche, Sinagos, and Kiskakons, June 23, 1742.*

My Children, I am delighted that you should feel your obligation to me for having Sent Monsieur de Celoron to you to restore your Senses.

My Children, I am greatly satisfied at your having Listened to the message I Sent you by Monsieur de Celoron, and at your having Established your village at l'arbre Croche, where you have found good land. By these Branches of Porcelain I replenish the fire I have kindled at that Spot, so that it may never Die out, and, to give you fresh evidence of my affection and of the care I take of you, I have given orders to Monsieur de Vercheres to Send the officer second in command, with all the French who may be at Missilimakinac, to burn all the Trees you cut down last Spring, so that you may be in Position next year to seed your lands properly.

My Children, the mark of distinction I gave your village must be a further Inducement to you never to leave it, and to remain quietly and peacefully on the mat I have had Spread for you. I urge you, as well as your wives, Children, and those who will come after you, to benefit by the advantage you have in possessing so good an Establishment, and, for my part, I am pleased at having placed my Children in a Place where they will no longer be Exposed to hunger. May your Hearts be as white as the great Flag I have caused to be hoisted in your village. I will always keep my eyes on it. Do not Stray Far away from it. I will continue to give you fresh tokens of my affection.