

have the honor of reporting to you the progress made in this Mission.

I have not, Monseigneur, received any news as Yet of the *Sieur de la Verendrye*, which leads me to think that he has followed up his discovery. *Father Coquart*,<sup>1</sup> who has passed the winter at *Kamanistigouia*, Wrote me on May 26th last that *Lacolle*, [a] *Monsonis* war-chief of *Lac de la Pluye* [*Rainy Lake*], had formed in September a party of more than 200 men, the majority of whom Were *Cristinaux* and *Assiniboels*; that they had Attacked the *Scioux* of the *Prairies*, that 70 Warriors of this Nation were killed, without counting the women and children; and that the number of Slaves Was so great that, according to the report and the Expression of the Savages, they occupied in their march more than four arpents; that the band of *Lacolle* had lost only six men; and that there were many Wounded, as they had fought during four days. He added that the *Sieur de la Verendrye* did everything he could to prevent this fight, but that presents and arguments had made no impression on the Mind of this Chief. He says that this defeat will not facilitate matters for the *Sieur de la Verendrye*; that there will be more Slaves than packages; that the Savages were beginning to stir Again, and that they had already sung the war-song. All these circumstances are not easy to reconcile with the arrangements which his Majesty prescribes for us to Follow, in a circular letter. However, Monseigneur, *Monsieur Hocquart* and I will consider what decision is to be taken for the good of the service and for the furtherance of everything.

Since I Had the honor of Writing you last year regarding some Frenchmen killed by the *Chicachas*, they have killed

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<sup>1</sup> *Claude Godefroy Coquart*, born in 1706, came to Canada about 1738. After three years' service at *Quebec*, he was appointed chaplain for *Vérendrye's* forces, and set forth for the upper country; but he did not winter with that explorer until 1743-44, when he is known to have been at *Fort La Reine*. After 1746 he served the *Saguenay* mission, dying at *Chicoutimi* in 1765. His linguistic work was in the *Abenaki* language, for which he prepared a grammar and a dictionary.—Ed.