

1742: JESUITS AND THE DETROIT HURON

[Letter of Beauharnois to the French Minister, dated Nov. 12, 1742. Source, same as preceding document, but fol. 249.]

MONSEIGNEUR—I have at last received a Letter from Father de la Richardie which Was handed to me only on the 10th of this month. Judging by appearances it was not Believed that any other ships would sail. He tells me that he has Written me several others, but I have considered, Monseigneur, that as these Fathers generally Send their Letters under a flying Seal to their Superiors the latter Suppress them when not in Accordance with their views. I would Naturally observe, Monseigneur, that Duplicity is pushed too far in the proceedings of this Father, who writes me lastly that he has obtained the Consent of the hurons whom he calls his savages as if they belonged to him as their absolute master, that he has Induced them to Settle at la grande Terre, as it was not Advisable they should do so at gross isle, a plan I always opposed, because It meant their being tolerated there as in a place of refuge, and they might domineer over the French. Monsieur de Noyan says absolutely nothing in the Letter he Wrote me on his arrival at Montreal, and Monsieur de Beaucours writes me he Had told him he had Taken possession of that grosse isle in the name of the French, as it was not in the interest of the service that that Nation should Establish themselves there in view of the Consequences that might result.

I remain with very profound Respect, Monseigneur, Your very humble and very obedient Servant,

BEAUHARNOIS

QUEBEC, November 12, 1742.