

Item concerning the recommendation you were pleased to convey to me to separate the Sioux from the Renards, I had the honor, Monseigneur, in my letter of the 24th of September of last year, to report the steps taken by the Sioux, as well as the Sakis and Renards, to approach me and the reasons that induced them to do so. I annexed to that despatch the speeches of those Savages and my replies thereto, and I took the liberty of pointing out, Monseigneur, that in view of the favorable dispositions with which they seemed animated, I could not at least avoid appearing to believe them. With regard to that object and to that which includes the news communicated to you by Monsieur de Bienville, I would add that it seemed contrary to the welfare of the service and to the peace it is Sought to establish that I should reject the application the Sioux had come to make to me, and the difficulties Were no less Embarassing as regards breaking off the union that reigned between the Sioux and the Renards before both had decided to come to me and sue for Peace. Whatever Knowledge one may have—and I myself have studied it—of the Turbulence of the sioux and the Spirit of revenge wherewith the Renards may be animated, the plan of calming Minds by Conciliatory means Seemed the only one it was possible for me to adopt under the circumstances. For, had the Sioux' promises been rejected, how could we secure ourselves against their resentment while endeavoring at the same time to maintain tranquillity in the Posts, when the difficulties of subduing them by force seem insurmountable? On the other hand, it did not seem possible to separate the Renards from the Sioux' interests judging by the Close friendship that seemed to exist between them when they came down with the Sieur Marin, and even if it could be done, it could result only in kindling a fresh war between the Nations and in interrupting tranquillity in all the Posts more than ever. Moreover, Monseigneur, the conduct of both since they came down with the Sieur Marin cannot make me regret the attitude I took toward them, and although I cannot warrant how long those savages will keep their promises, circumstances do not permit of my acting otherwise than I have done. I think the drawbacks would have been mul-