

against him. These same Hurons persist, however, in wishing to return to Bois blanc island, because it is their interest to occupy that post which is the key of Detroit, whilst Nicolas on his side will draw the English to him, and afford them facilities for establishments all along Lake Erie as far as the Miamis [Maumee] river. M^r de Longueuil is not in a condition to oppose all these enterprises; he is a witness of their project every day, without having the power to make the first step to counteract them; which excites wonder among the other nations, and leads them to entertain unfavorable opinions in regard to us.

The Outaoua appears altogether insensible to the misfortunes that threaten the fort, and does not care about helping us.

The Pouteouatamis are, as M^r de Longueuil believes, the best disposed; he has no fault to find with them; they are, consequently, the only persons he can confide in.

A party of the Miamis have come to dance the Calumet at the fort; another section have been to visit Nicolas at Sandusket; the ceremony attendant on the former has been very expensive; their reception, the good cheer for the space of 15 days, and the presents which have been made to them with a view both to destroy unfavorable impressions among them, and to protect the lives of the French who are in their village, have cost a great deal.

Such was the state of affairs at Detroit on the 25th of August. We are in hopes that the arrival of the convoy and of Father Larichardie will contribute to the peace of that post, or, at least, that the reinforcements we have sent thither will enable M. de Longueuil to resist the attacks of our enemies, if he can do nothing against them, after having exhausted all available means, regard being had to existing circumstances.

Miamis

Ensign Douville,¹ who had been sent last spring to invite the Miamis to come down to Montreal, writes to the Marquis

¹Probably the same officer who was killed in an attack on a Virginia fort in 1757; and possibly the one who was with Villiers in Wisconsin in 1733. See *ante*, p. 188.—Ed.