

will follow your orders regarding the Third of the proceeds of the lease which His Majesty has granted to that Widow.

We remain with very profound respect, Monseigneur, Your very humble and very Obedient servants,

LA GALISSONIERE
BIGOT¹

QUEBEC, September 20, 1748.

1748: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADJUSTMENT OF WESTERN POSTS

[Letter of La Galissonière to the French Minister, dated Sept. 25, 1748. Source, same as preceding document, but fol. 130.]

QUEBEC, September 25, 1748.

MONSEIGNEUR—I have had the honor of writing to you somewhat at length by “la friponne” regarding the illinois settlement; That of Detroit demands no less attention.

I will not repeat what they have in common; I will merely observe that that of illinois can supply provisions to New Orleans only, while that of Detroit is so situated as to be able to assist all the others and even illinois. The climate and soil are better than at illinois; the fur trade is more advantageous and more easily carried on at Detroit. At illinois the savages seem more faithful and less powerful; at Detroit they are more pow-

¹ François Bigot, the last and most infamous intendant of New France, was a native of Guienne, and had served (1745) as commissary at Louisburg, where his peculations are supposed to have contributed to its downfall. Through influential relatives he obtained the appointment of intendant of Canada, Jan. 1, 1748, with largely increased powers. Parkman has told graphically, in his *Montcalm and Wolfe*, the story of Bigot's systematic and adroit plundering, culminating in the financial ruin of the colony. After the conquest (1760), his return to France was signalized by an extended trial, as a result of which he was banished and condemned to pay an enormous fine. He is said, however, to have passed the remainder of his days in affluence at Bordeaux.—Ed.