

1729: THE FOXES IN EXTREMITIES

[Letter from Beauharnois to the French Minister, dated Sept. 1, 1729. Source, same as preceding document, but vol. 51, c. 11, fol. 135.]

MONSEIGNEUR—The Sieur de la Jemeraye, a cadet in His Majesty's troops, one of the French who wintered among the sioux, arrived in this Town yesterday without bringing with him the Renard chiefs who were expected and who had Induced the Sieur de la Jemeraye to accompany them from the Sioux Village to the river St. Joseph. When those Renards arrived there they said that they feared to fall into the ambushes of Enemies who would lie in wait for them everywhere if they should go down to Montreal, and they returned to their homes. I have the honor, Monseigneur, to Send You a copy of the report that the Sieur de la Jemeraye has made to me respecting what occurred on the part of the Puants and Renards, About sixty cabins of whom were Camped at a gun-shot from the fort that the French built among the sioux On the shore of Lake Pepin. The Renards took advantage of the absence of the sioux (who were all away hunting) to speak to our French about their affairs. You will see, Monseigneur, that they know not what means to adopt to obtain the friendship of the French. The proposal that they made to the Sieur de la Jemeraye (when they left the sioux country) that he should accompany them to their Village, and there detach some of their Chiefs to go with him to the river St. Joseph and render an account to the commandant of their good behavior toward the French with whom they had wintered; and The words sent to me by that commandant on behalf of one of the Renard chiefs (a copy whereof I have the honor to send you); are proofs of their docility and of their desire to be at peace with us. But as they have not come down, and as the lateness of the season does not permit us to send any word to them Respecting their request, I Hope, Monseigneur, to be in a Position next Spring (if you will have the kindness to send me your orders On this matter via New-England) to comply with the Intentions of the Court, and with