

for their Subsistence and that of their families who have no other means of Livelihood, since they sow nothing. I have just been informed that their absence was due solely to their meeting (on arriving at their Hunting grounds) a number of the prairie sioux who Asked them to join them in their war against the Mahas;¹ they agreed to do so and that is the reason why we had no news of them by the Canoe that the *Sieur de la Perrière* had Sent with ten men to ascertain what had become of them, for they returned only in the month of July Following.

When you did me the honor of writing to me that I had said nothing to you on the design that I had had of Establishing the post among the sioux, it was solely, *Monseigneur*, in Execution of the article of the King's memorial of one thousand Seven hundred and twenty six ordering me to neglect nothing to carry out His Majesty's Views respecting an Establishment at that Place, and to Induce two missionaries to go with the commandant whom I sent there. I Felt the necessity of this too much not to give all my attention to it. The welfare of the service, that of the Colony, and of Religion, were at stake, and what you have done me the honor of writing to me about it seems to contain these three principles. Moreover, it seemed all the more necessary to have Established that post since there is no doubt that the Renards (in their defeat) would have found refuge among the sioux had not the French been established there. And at present we attribute the docility and submission manifested by the Renards solely to the attentions and to the advantageous offers made by the Sioux to the French of which the Renards are fully aware.

The post would therefore be necessary in order to Maintain the sioux in these happy dispositions, to keep the Renards in check, and to frustrate the steps that they might take to win the hearts of the Sioux, who will always reject their proposals so long as they see the French among them, and so long as the post that we have Established there shall exist. But although all the advantages that I have just had the honor of pointing out to You

¹ See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, p. 190, note.—Ed.