

1730: MARIN AIDS THE WINNEBAGO AGAINST THE FOXES

[Extract of a letter from Marin to Beauharnois, dated in the country of the Folles-Avoines, May 11, 1730.¹ MS., in archives of Ministère des Colonies, Paris; press-mark, "Collection Moreau-St. Méry, vol. 9, f. 11, fol. 288."]

On my arrival at the Village of the folles avoines I was very well received with some Calumets, according to custom, by the old men who Had remained in the fort. They said to me: "My father, we will let you rest today and tomorrow we will speak to you."

On the following day they began by Spreading a mat, and, by a Collar, they spoke to me as follows: "Here is a mat, my father, on which we beg you to rest and to be pleased to kindle your fire here and never Extinguish it; for we are resolved to Listen attentively to your word, which is that of our father Onontiô, who no doubt has pity on us since he has Sent you to assist us. Have pity, therefore, my father (they said to me) and look upon us as the faithful and true children of Onontiô. We need your help in the sad position in which we are placed." This I granted them, assuring them of your protection, Monsieur, and of mine if necessary.

Afterwards, I attentively considered the best place I could find whereat to build a fort capable of protecting all my people and myself against the Enemy's assaults in case of attack, according to the orders which you, Monsieur, did me the honor of giving me, at my departure. But, as I found nothing more suitable than the fort already built, I decided to establish myself in it, after repairing it, both by replacing the portions of the palisade that were missing, and by roofing the French houses with Bark instead of with the straw that covered them, in order to Avert the danger of fire. I also had the ground cleared of

¹This is the enclosure referred to in Beauharnois's letter of June 25, 1730, in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, v, p. 106.—Ed.