

The French Regime in Wisconsin—III

1743: SIOUX INSTIGATE REBELLION; NEWS FROM ILLINOIS

[Letter from the French minister¹ to Beauharnois, dated May 31, 1743. MS. in Archives Coloniales, Paris; pressmark, "Amérique, serie B, Canada, vol. 76, fol. 100."]

VERSAILLES, May 31, 1743.

MONSIEUR—The report you made me in 1741 respecting what had passed between the Scioux and Renard Savages² having led me to suspect that both would seek to join together, I wrote you in my despatch of April 20th of last year to neglect nothing to prevent so dangerous a union. Such suspicions are only too fully justified. In fact I see by a letter from Monsieur de Bienville,³ dated February 4th last, that the Sieur de Bertet, major commanding at Illinois⁴ has informed him that the voyageurs who had arrived from Canada the previous autumn had reported to him that the Scioux, not content with having broken the peace they themselves had gone to ask of you, had also induced the Renards to join them in a fresh attempt against the French, and that the Sakis not wishing to take part in this league had wholly separated themselves from the other tribes.

¹ From 1723-49, the minister of the marine (which included the bureau of the colonies), was Jean Frédéric Phélypeaux, Comte de Maurepas.—Ed.

² See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, pp. 360-363.—Ed.

³ For a brief sketch of Bienville, see *Ibid.*, p. 180, note 1.—Ed.

⁴ For this officer see *Ibid.*, p. 479. He was living in France as late as 1783.—Ed.