

subject, as I instructed you last year, either to have the Chichachas, Cherokis, and Teste Plates harassed, or to put a stop to the expeditions the Canadian nations seem disposed to renew against them.

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Monsieur Hocquart<sup>10</sup> has sent me the statement of the distribution of presents to the savages last year; and I notice with pleasure that it was much smaller than in previous years. I trust you will continue to devote your attention to reducing expenses of this kind as much as the welfare of the service will permit.

I will remember the Sieurs Marin with pleasure according to the testimony you may give me regarding them.

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1745: CANADA AND LOUISIANA; COUREURS DES BOIS; POST OF LA BAYE

[Letter from the French minister to Beauharnois, dated April 28, 1745. Source, same as preceding document, but vol. 81, folio 39.]

VERSAILLES, April 28, 1745.

MONSIEUR—I have received your letters of the 21st and 25th of October of last year.

As early as 1743, Monsieur de Vaudreuil, governor of Louisiana, wrote me that, in order to put a stop to the continual disorderly conduct of the Coureurs de bois in the Illinois country, and to the frequent desertions of soldiers from that post, it would be necessary to take special steps to make sure of those who go there to trade. With that in view and, at the same time, to increase the trade of the colony, he informed me that it would be advisable to establish small posts in the direction of the Missouri. By the last report he sent me on that subject, I understood that he had been obliged to

<sup>10</sup> Hocquart was the Canadian intendant; see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, pp. 76, 498.—Ed.