

to punish the Indian nations and to make them feel the King's power.

I doubt not, my Lord, but that letter had at first created great hopes of the execution of the expedition which was projected and concerted in the best possible manner by the late M. de la Jonquière.

But the despatch which that General had the honor to write you on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October on the subject of M<sup>r</sup> de Belestre's voyage,<sup>50</sup> and of the scalps taken by the Nipissings, will only create an apprehension in your mind that his orders and purest intentions would be fruitless.

In fact, my Lord, the orders which M<sup>r</sup> de la Jonquière despatched last spring to M<sup>r</sup> de Celoron, and repeated in his letter to him of the first of October, were not executed any more than those he had given him as far back as 1750, before his departure for Detroit. I cannot actually fathom the reasons which prevented that officer obeying them, as he makes no mention thereof in the letter he has written to the late M<sup>r</sup> de la Jonquière on the twenty-sixth day of January last.

That letter has been preceded by several despatches from M<sup>r</sup> de Celoron and the Commandants of our other posts at the South, even, I think, at Illinois, but neither the one nor the other has reached me. M<sup>r</sup> de Celoron had addressed these despatches to M<sup>r</sup> de la Lavalterie, the Commandant at Niagara,<sup>51</sup> who detached a soldier to convey them to Fort Rouillé, with orders to the storekeeper of that post to transmit them promptly to Montreal. It is not known what became of that soldier. About the same time a Mississagué from Toronto

<sup>50</sup> For this officer see *Ibid.*, p. 459.—ED.

<sup>51</sup> Pierre Paul Margane, Sieur de la Valterie, was brother of the younger Vincennes, founder of the fort of that name on the Wabash. Born in 1679, he was ensign in 1712, Lieutenant in 1721, and captain in 1739. In 1759, as the oldest captain in the service, he received a pension. He is spoken of as a rich, honest, elderly man, of fair talents. Besides this command at Niagara he was in 1739 at Fort Nipigon, and in 1747 at Sault St. Louis. He remained in Canada after the British conquest.—ED.