

just learned that a meeting of the Illinois, Ouyas, Pianguichas, Miamis, Delawares, Chaouanons and the Five Iroquois Nations, was to be had this year at *La Demoiselle's*, and that the whole tends, in his opinion, to a general revolt.

The storekeeper at Toronto writes to M^r de Verchères, Commandant at Fort Frontenac, that some trustworthy Indians have assured him that the Saulteux, who killed our Frenchmen some years ago,⁶¹ have dispersed themselves along the head of Lake Ontario, and seeing himself surrounded by them, he doubts not but they have some evil design on his fort.

There is no doubt, my Lord, but 'tis the English who are inducing the savages to destroy Fort Toronto, on account of the essential injury it does their trade at Choueguen.

The capture of the four English traders by M^r de Celoron's order last year,⁶² has not prevented other Englishmen going to trade to the Vermillion river, where the Reverend Father la Richardie wintered.

⁶¹ See *Ibid.*, pp. 508-512.—Ed.

⁶² The British subjects captured by Céloron's orders, were: Luke Irwin, an Irishman living in Pennsylvania, and an employee of George Croghan; he spoke the Shawnee language, and was accustomed to trade at the Scioto town. Joseph Fortiner (Faulkner) of New York, likewise an employee of Croghan and licensed by the governor of Pennsylvania. Thomas Burke (Bourke), an Irish inhabitant of Lancaster, and an employee of John Martin. The three were captured at Sandusky, and carried to Detroit. John Pattin of Pennsylvania was taken by De Villiers at Fort Miami, under pretext that he was laden with wampum and presents with which to seduce the Miami of that region into an agreement to remove to La Demoiselle's village. After a short detention in Detroit all four of the captive traders (Irwin, Fortiner, Burke, and Pattin) were sent by way of Niagara to Montreal. There they were interviewed by La Jonquière; see memoir designated *Conduct of the English Ministry* (several editions), appendix v. After a searching examination, in which it is claimed that they admitted that the English traders instigated Indians to murder Frenchmen, all the prisoners but Fortiner, who was ill, were sent to France, and imprisoned at Rochelle. In November, 1751, they appealed to the English authorities and were finally released; see *N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, x, p. 241. The whole incident was the occasion of much diplomatic fencing between