

*minot*, payable in peltries and that he will possibly be obliged to send away some of the Canadians from Detroit owing to the want of provisions.

To add to the misfortunes, M<sup>r</sup> Desligneris has learned that the Commandant of the Illinois would not permit the Sieurs Delisle and Fonblanche, who had contracted with the King to supply the Miamis, Ouyatonons, and Detroit with provisions from the Illinois, to purchase provisions for the subsistence of the garrisons of those posts, on the ground that an increase of troops and families had arrived who would consume the stock at the Illinois.

M<sup>r</sup> de St. Ange, Comandant at Fort Vincenne, does not state anything in this regard to M<sup>r</sup> Desligneris; he merely says that he has no intelligence from the Illinois, and that he is still uncertain whether the convoy had arrived there.

Whatever augmentation of the troops and families may have taken place at the Illinois, 'tis certain that, on the receipt of the letter, Messrs. de la Jonquière and Bégon have written to the Commandant and Commissary of Fort Chartres, who will do their best in order that Messrs. Delisle and Fonblanche may perform their contract, unless they suffer from a similar scarcity to ours. The great difficulty is, the arrival of the General and Intendant's orders at their destination. M<sup>r</sup> Desligneris sent them off on the 3d of January by 4 Mascoutins, but he doubts much if they will reach the Illinois; he knows not, even, that they will arrive at the post of Vincenne, on account of the enemies that encompass him.

The crops have also failed at the Beautiful river. M<sup>r</sup> de Joncaire and the other Frenchmen have been reduced to a couple of handfuls (*une jointée*) of Indian corn a day; neither meat, nor grease, nor salt.

Famine is not the whole scourge we experience; the smallpox commits ravages; it begins to reach Detroit. One woman has died of it at the Huron village.

This disease prevails also at the Beautiful river.

'Twere desirable that it should break out and spread, gener-