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1752: INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE INDIANS

[Letter from the French minister to Du Quesne,⁶⁴ dated May 15, 1752. MS. in Archives Coloniales, Paris; pressmark, "Amérique, serie B, Canada, vol. 95, folio 15."]

MARLY, May 15, 1752.

MONSIEUR—In the instructions the King has ordered me to send you on the various matters connected with the administration of your government, you will see that movements of rather considerable importance among the savages of the upper country are dealt with; and, by my answers to the letters written by Monsieur the Marquis de Lajonquière to me on the subject, you will see what His Majesty's views are regarding what has occurred. The better to enable you to do what he expects of you in the matter—one of the deepest interest of all, you will have to deal with on your arrival in Canada, I am very happy to explain to you more particularly in this letter, which is for you alone, the principles by which His Majesty wishes you to be guided.

All the information we have received tells us that the trouble taken by the English and the expenses they incur to win over the savages are not without success among several Nations.

We were informed last year of the progress they had already made among the savages in the vicinity of the Ohio river, otherwise known as the Belle Rivière, where they have established

⁶⁴ Ange du Quesne, Sieur de Menneville, came of an illustrious family of naval officers. Born in 1702, he entered the navy (1714), passing through the various ranks to commander of a vessel. Named governor of Canada in 1752, he was at the same time granted the title of marquis. He remained in Canada three years, and greatly invigorated and reinforced the service. Upon his retirement from the governorship (1755), he was made chief of squadron and continued to serve until 1776, when he retired with the rank of lieutenant-general. Du Quesne engaged in eighteen campaigns, and in 1759 was defeated by the English in a naval engagement. In 1763 he was chosen commander of the order of St. Louis, dying at Antony on the Seine, Sept. 17, 1778.—Ed.