

themselves since the peace. Monsieur de Lajonquière had reported a plan he had formed, both for the purpose of driving the English away from that river and of punishing the savages who had allowed themselves to be won over. That plan was to send several detachments of French and allied savages, who would meet at a rendezvous to be indicated to them, and afterwards act in accordance with the object of the expedition. Although there were remarks to be made regarding the details of Monsieur de Lajonquière's arrangements in this matter, nevertheless, as the fundamental idea of the plan was good, and as, moreover, it was to be carried out before such remarks could reach the governor, His Majesty deemed it advisable to approve what he had done. But we afterwards learned from his own letters that all the operations undertaken in execution of the plan resulted merely in the removal of some English traders with their goods and in the murder of two savages of the Miamis nation.

The removal of the English traders, whose goods were confiscated and even pillaged by our savages, cannot but have a good effect by disgusting the other traders through fear of the same fate. But the murder of the two Miamis may have unfortunate results; and, in fact, I have heard that it has already caused great commotion among the rebellious nations.

Monsieur de Lajonquière claims that if his expedition did not meet with the success that was expected of it, it was because Monsieur Celoron, major commandant at Detroit, which was to be the centre of all the operations, did not properly carry out the orders and instructions he had given him.

You will, as far as possible, ascertain the exact facts of the case, and report the same to me. But it would be useless to inquire into the errors that may have been committed. It is necessary that we start from the point where we now are, and establish some of the main points in order to be able to judge of the operations that may have to be undertaken there.

The English may pretend that by the treaty of Utrecht, we are obliged to allow the savages to trade with them. But it is