

now over; but those savages have always kept aloof from the post.

Monsieur the Marquis de Beauharnois carried on negotiations for a long time to get them to return; but, owing to the influence of the English, into whose hands their trade had passed, all such negotiations were unsuccessful, although, at various times, they held out hopes either that they would resume their former residence at Detroit, or would merely draw closer to it to come back under French domination, after completely separating from the English. But, about three years ago, and at the time when they seemed determined to follow the latter decision, and had even caused Monsieur the Marquis de Beauharnois to be informed of it, they decided to go to the Illinois. They accordingly asked Monsieur de Vaudreuil, governor of Louisiana, to have a fort built on the Oüabache river, where they offered to gather all together and to join the Kickapous and Mascoutins, nations that had long been attached to the French. At the time it seemed all the more advisable to favor such migration because the Chaouanons, who naturally love the French, are gentle in character and consequently easier to govern than all the others, and there was a risk of losing them forever by refusing their request.

But it is reported that since the war, they have been joined by a considerable number of savages of all nations, forming a sort of republic dominated by some Iroquois of the Five Nations who form part of it, and that, as the English almost entirely supply their needs, it is to be feared that they may succeed in seducing them. This would be all the more regrettable, since they might easily interrupt communication between Canada and Louisiana, and even occasion the loss of the greater part of the posts of both Colonies.

I am writing to Monsieur de Vaudreuil regarding that union, so that he may strive to break it if it be such as is represented; and His Majesty's wish is that, in such case, you should contribute to the work on your side. You will come to an understanding for the purpose with Monsieur de Vau-