

most serious facts, and, on the other hand, the orders given in matters of that kind can be very easily eluded.

It is therefore necessary to act on the spot; and the only thing to be considered is the most suitable means of doing so to advantage.

We are unaware of what Monsieur de Lajonquière may have done this year. You will be informed of it on your arrival in Quebec. But whatever it may be, and whatever may have been the success of the same, if there still remains something to be done—as seems only too evident—your chief object must be to avoid, as far as possible, a war with the savages on this point.

As His Majesty himself observes to you in your instructions, such wars are always exceedingly costly; and it very rarely happens that the service derives any real benefit from them. You must even know that in most instances they are due solely to private interests, and that on all occasions you must be on your guard against the insinuations that may be made to you and the snares that may even be set for you in order to drag you into them.

Thus without undertaking, as Monsieur de Lajonquiere's idea seemed to be, to make the savages who have for some time been looked upon as rebellious or are suspected of being so, withdraw from the Ohio river, and without trying to take away the freedom of their trade, you must keep these two principal objects in view:

1. To make every possible effort to drive the English away from our lands in that region, and to prevent their coming there to trade, by seizing their goods and destroying their posts.
2. To make our savages understand at the same time that we have nothing against them, that they will be at liberty to go and trade with the English in the latter's country, but that we will not allow them to receive them on our lands.

If you attain these two ends, you will secure the tranquility of our possessions in that quarter; and, by so doing, it is certain that—provided magazines well stocked with goods be maintained there and our traders be prevented from laying