

down the law to the savages—our trade will soon become greater than that of the English as it used to be; because everybody knows the savages do not like to go and trade in their towns or forts.

Such are the King's instructions as to your conduct in connection with all the movements now disturbing the upper country. There remains but to speak to you of one article relating thereto, and which was dealt with in a solemn council held by Monsieur de Lajonquiere in the month of July last with the Nontaguez of the five Iroquois nations in the presence of the chiefs of the domiciled Iroquois, of the Abenakis of St. Francois, and of the Outaouois of Michilimakinak. The Nontaguez stated in their speeches that the lands of the Ohio river belonged to them. Monsieur de Lajonquiere replied to them in such manner as to favor their pretension, by giving them to understand that the French would not establish themselves on those lands without their permission. The remark I have already made to you regarding the pretensions of the English must lead you to judge that such answer of Monsieur de Lajonquiere has not been approved. In fact the King wishes you to take every opportunity to destroy the impression it may have produced and prevent the consequences that might arise therefrom by disabusing the minds of the Iroquois on this subject. As I have already told you, they have no right to the Ohio river. We had discovered it before they frequented that country; and we even frequented it when there were no other savages than the Choüanons with whom they were at war and who have always been our friends.