

Copy of the letter written to M. de Makarty, Commandant at the Illinois, on the 10th of 9^{ber} 1755, by M. Dumas, Commandant of Fort Du Quesne.

SIR—The critical condition of Canada last summer; attacked on all sides by numerous armies, whose movements M. Du Quesne, at the time our general, was unwilling to foresee; with posts defenceless and without supplies; Lake Ontario closed by Chaouaguin during the entire of the fine season; all this, Sir, has placed this post in the most sad want of provisions.

The enemy having cut off our communication, as I have the honor to inform you, Sir, it is a long time since I have received any news from M. de Vaudreuil; I have reason to believe he is busy clearing the roads, but the greatest success cannot at present provide so many indispensable necessaries; therefore I have to look elsewhere.

In so delicate a conjuncture, I take upon myself, Sir, to send to you for provisions, and if they can reach us in season, they will afford us the opportunity of being provided with the other necessaries by facilitating the carriage of whatever comes to us from below.

Wherefore, I send you Sieur Ducharme, a skilful voyageur who formerly came up the Beautiful river as far as the Falls,⁴

wounded in an action against the Spaniards (1740), and the next year was promoted to a lieutenancy. In 1746 he received the cross of St. Louis, and the following year participated in a naval battle wherein he was taken prisoner, being carried to England. In 1750 he was exchanged, and returning to France was rewarded for his services with the governorship of Louisiana (1752). Arrived in New Orleans in the spring of 1753, he took over the governorship at a troubled time, and for eleven years defended the province, almost without troops or resources. His disagreements with the ordinator of the colony led to disgrace upon his return to France. He was finally (1769) banished from Paris, and retired to Rouen where he died Sept. 8, 1770.—ED.

⁴In all probability this was Jean Marie Ducharme, who was born at Lachine in 1723, and there married (1761) Marie Roy. Coming early to Mackinac, he traded thence throughout the Illinois country and Wisconsin. In 1773 he was arrested by the Spaniards on the Missouri River, and for some time kept a prisoner at St. Louis. At the out-