

should be attacked in its present state.²² It may contain a garrison of more than five hundred men, whom it is very difficult to provide for; the Illinois has been this year their resource.

The commandant has three thousand francs for a gratification. This establishment is necessary to hinder the English from occupying that territory, but there must be a more respectable fort and one that can in time of war contain a garrison of five or six hundred men; the country is good, the land fertile, and the air healthy, settlers would do well.

This post is exploited by licenses which are given gratuitously in order to encourage the merchants to send there; too much care can not be taken that the merchandise be low in price, in order that the savages finding it so, and making there a good trade may not go to the English, an object important for commerce, and still more so for politics.

The savages who come to Fort Duquesne are the Loups, the Chaouanons, and the Iroquois, renegades from all the tribes of the Five Nations.

There comes from this post, in an ordinary year, from two hundred to two hundred and fifty packages.

*Fort of the River au Bœuf.*²³—The fort of the River au Boeuf is a square of upright pickets, situated thirty leagues from fort Machault, on a river whose name it bears. The river is quite navigable in spring-time, autumn, and often even in

²² The hasty evacuation of Fort Duquesne, the following year, on the approach of Gen. John Forbes with an English army, is proof of the justness of Bougainville's observation.—Ed.

²³ For the building of this fort, see *ante*, p. 148, note 93. When the French abandoned this stockade after the fall of Niagara (1759), a detachment of Royal Americans, sent out from Fort Pitt, took possession; and at the time of Pontiac's conspiracy Ensign Price escaped after a brave but futile defense. The Indians burned the post, which was not reoccupied until the Americans garrisoned the site in 1794, during the Northwestern Indian war. A garrison was maintained here until after the War of 1812-15, when the present city of Waterford arose on the site.—Ed.