

In the first of such letters he reported what related to the Chaouianons; and stated that the lack of goods and the antipathy of most of the other nations to them, had decided them to separate into two bands, one of which has established itself at Sonontio,²⁷ where it forms a sort of republic with a fairly large number of bad characters of various nations who have retired thither, while the other went in the direction of the Cherakis.

By the letters of Monsieur de Vaudreuil, governor of Louisiana, we have learned that the latter band, after ascending a part of the river of the Cherakis, decided to go and join the Alibamons,²⁸ where it appeared to have behaved well; and, as that Governor adds that the quarrel it had had with the Illinois was ended, there is a reason to believe there is nothing to fear from it.

born in 1689 of a magisterial family, and in 1744 was created councillor of state. After his services in the marine, he became minister of foreign affairs (1745-57) and died in 1761.—Ed.

²⁷ This was the village at the mouth of the Scioto (Sonontio, St. Yotoc) River, which in the Huron language signified a deer. This village, usually known as the Lower Shawnee Town, was built about 1747, being occupied for eleven years. Upon the visit of Christopher Gist and George Croghan (1751), about three hundred warriors were gathered there in two divisions—the smaller on the south side of the Ohio, the larger containing the council house on the north side, west of the Scioto. See William M. Darlington, *Gist's Journals* (Pittsburgh, 1893), p. 44. Two years later this village was inundated by an Ohio flood. During the French and Indian War, many English captives were brought thither, among them (1755) Mrs. Mary Ingles of Virginia. Upon the capture of Fort Duquesne (1758) the town was abandoned, its inhabitants retreating up the Scioto to the neighborhood of Chillicothe. Traces of the Indian occupation were visible for many years thereafter.—Ed.

²⁸ The Alibamon (Alabama, Alibamu) Indians belong to the Muskogean stock, with the Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, etc. Their original home appears to have been on the Yazoo. At the time the French came to Louisiana this tribe was upon the river that bears its name, and the nearest portion of the Creek confederacy to the Mobile settlement. In 1702, 1704, and 1708, there were expeditions against them; while in 1714 a fort was built in their territory, christened Fort Tou-