

above all, that for this year which, Monsieur Bigot tells me, will amount to 20 millions, besides the expenses incurred for the savages in the Upper Country, owing to the ravages of smallpox among them,⁵⁶ and which will be an additional million. It is impossible, notwithstanding the high price of provisions and the quantities consumed in war, that the expenditure can amount to such an enormous sum without there having been neglect or abuse * * *

1758: DISTRUST AND DISHONESTY AT POSTS

[Translated from Montcalm's journal, in *Lévis MSS.*, vii, pp. 457, 489, 490.]

News from St. Joseph River of October 1. Smallpox, that has ravaged among the savages the past year, together with the artifices instigated in their midst by the English, have occasioned much fermentation among the savages of the Upper Country. This spirit has even spread among the Poutéotamis, always attached to the French, the sole savage nation that has never been reproached for any murder. They have, however, wished to assassinate a Canadian, according to letters from Monsieur le Verrier, commandant of that post. The news of the success of the battle of July 8⁵⁷ restrained them.

Dec. 10. These posts [of the Upper Country] in times of peace have been worth immense sums to their proprietors, by means of the pernicious trade in brandy and the presents of the

⁵⁶ The Indians carried back smallpox with them from the siege of Fort William Henry (1757), and numbers died thereof at Mackinac in the winter of 1757-58.—Ed.

⁵⁷ Referring to Montcalm's defeat of Abercrombie's forces at Ticonderoga, July 8, 1758, where the former repelled an army of nearly four times the number of his own.—Ed.