

from the settlements, their stay would be but in passing, and consequently, there would be a great saving of food, whose consumption has hitherto been considerable, and therefore costly.

Having settled upon the method and manner prescribed by the instructions delivered to me by Don Francisco Rui in regard to the management of the tribes, which are the same as those found in the documents which I enclose, I shall try to fulfil the duties of my post, without any change in the established practice, so long as I continue in this employ.

The principal settlements of the English domain are located, one opposite to ours of Misera, with the name of Oká,<sup>26</sup> and although it is one league distant from the river, on a small river whence it is named, the boats can easily go there to discharge their cargoes. At a distance of five leagues above is located the settlement and fort of Chartres. It is constructed of stone and is remarkable for its size and large garrison; for the English usually maintain there a regular regiment of troops. But at that time they only had one battalion. The commandant of that battalion was also civil commander of all the British district. Another settlement called Kaó is located somewhat lower,<sup>27</sup> or almost opposite Paincourt. It resembles all the others which exist in the English district, whose inhabitants are French habitants who settled there before the cession made by France. At that time there were many of them, but now they have become less, because many of their families have left them to settle in our district. From those families have been formed and increased the settlements of Misera and Paincourt. In those set-

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<sup>26</sup> The French town of Ste. Geneviève appears to have been the oldest Illinois village west of the Mississippi, having been founded some time before 1732. It was, in good-natured raillery by the neighboring villages, nicknamed Misère (poverty). In 1785 the old town was carried away by a flood, and the modern village built upon a bluff, about three miles from the original site. The town of Oká is Au Kaskaskia (at Kaskaskia), for which see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 49.—Ed.

<sup>27</sup> Cahokia, for which see *ante*, p. 89, note 32. The French settlers were much given both to abbreviations and nicknames.—Ed.