

duration, so furious that it scattered all the boats, many of which lost their masts. Among them were the war frigates, which put back to Havana with three transports. On the thirteenth of this month, two were captured at Movila and at this river by the English, and the balance of the vessels put into Campeche Bay after sustaining rough usage, whence they did not sail until the fifth of this month. We are daily awaiting our Governor who is to come with one thousand men, after having sent forward the five hundred who are here. Your Grace will see by this detail, what a disaster the measures taken by our General for the inner government of the colony, and the contentment of the savage tribes both friends and enemies, must have suffered.

It is advisable to continue our devotion to the Otabuas [Ottawa] tribes, especially since they can serve us greatly in the present circumstances by opposing the bands of our enemies who might attack those settlements as they did the band of Monsieur Langlade whom they obliged to retire to Michilimackinac. That event and the departure of the two English barks laden with ammunition of war and provisions broke the measures which our enemies had taken to attack these settlements the second time.²⁷ I hope that Your Grace's zeal will deal with all those tribes in such manner that concurring with our arms in sustaining the honor and glory of our nation, its hopes may have an equally good outcome next spring.

²⁷ There are no accounts in the Canadian Archives, so far as published, of this repulse of Langlade. It may have been connected with the scout on which he was ordered—Aug. 27, 1780 (see *ante*, p. 412). There was constant expectation of attack at the Illinois throughout the summer of 1780, and one band of British Indians was driven from Kaskaskia on July 17. In August, the militia both of St. Louis and Cahokia were put under arms in anticipation of a hostile raid; see *Ill. Hist. Colls.*, ii, pp. lxxxviii, 59, 61. It is interesting to know that the Ottawa were somewhat influenced by the Spaniards and Americans. Sinclair speaks of "rebel belts" having penetrated as far as Saginaw Bay; see *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, ix, p. 578.—Ed.