

Although the information communicated by Your Grace to the government on the 13th of November last, concerning the disembarkation of the French in the River of San Lorenzo [St. Lawrence] does not appear well founded, still it does not cease to be useful in restraining the savages and wanderers who are among them.

If Your Grace could be assured by means of the savages of the commanders who are persuading them to descend to attack those posts, it would be the only method of pacifying those districts without the cost of a single drop of blood. Therefore, Your Grace shall do your best to discover exactly whomever you know in the tribes contrary to our interests. I see the difficulty of the undertaking, but I do not doubt that it can be attained with some, in which case, we shall have fewer enemies.

The accident that occurred with Balafre, the principal chief of the tribe of the Little Osages, will not I believe, have greater results whenever with skill and attention the tribe is given to understand how much cause the said Balafre had in his own destruction. Their anger may be erased with some small present; but you are to keep on the lookout and give the orders suitable so that no accident which may have bad results may again happen.

I have read with special satisfaction Your Grace's information of the 14th of November last, namely, that the Renard tribe requested that it be taken under the protection of the Spanish flag; and really since much utility may result from an alliance with that tribe, Your Grace shall contrive to take the measures possible for confirming their affection and friendship to us, notwithstanding our scarcity of all things.<sup>34</sup>

I am very sorry for what happened to Monsieur la Balme, and that in my opinion, the same had a great part in having perhaps attempted with imprudence, an undertaking which needed more time, more strength, and better circumstances.

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<sup>34</sup> For a speech of Cruzat to the Sauk and Fox tribe, made six days later than the letter here referred to, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iii, pp. 504, 505.—Ed.