

been reproached with; and you will have to take steps to find out exactly how matters stand, and report to me.

With reference to the post which, at his suggestion, it was also undertaken to establish among the Scioux, it is to be hoped that they who are destined to form that post will have a happier fate than most of the French who have formerly been sent among those savages. And, knowing as you must, what has occurred there and the little confidence to be reposed in those same savages, you should not have been in haste to enter upon such an undertaking.

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[Letter from the French minister to La Jonquière, dated May 30, 1750. Source, same as preceding document, but fol. 41.]

VERSAILLES, May 31, 1750.

MONSIEUR—I have received the letters you wrote me on the 20th and 22nd of September last year, concerning what has happened in the posts of the upper country.

After what was written to you respecting the measures you were to take to try and stop the abuses committed in connection with the expenses of those various posts, and which are one of the principal reasons for the deficit in the general expenditure of the colony, you should not have contented yourself with reproaching the *Sieur Duplessis Fabert*,<sup>3</sup> commandant at Michilimakinak for the purchases he claims to have made. And in view of the discrepancy between the high prices paid for such purchases and the abundance of all kinds of goods at his post, you should not have hesitated to remove him from his command. It is only by such examples that one can

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<sup>3</sup> Probably the same officer noticed in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 17. He was in command at Niagara, 1745-47, and at Mackinac from 1750-53, where he was the eldest captain in the colonial service. In 1756 he was made major of Montreal, and fruitlessly attempted (1758) to relieve Fort Frontenac. Several of his sons were likewise in service. In 1761 he was in France under the patronage of the Prince of Condé.—ED.