

## Wisconsin Historical Collections [vol. xviii

March, 9th and 22nd of May of this year. I shall have the honor to report to you on the same.

I had the honor to inform you, Monseigneur, by my letter of the 8th of October, 1750, that Monsieur de St. Clin had obtained satisfaction for the murder committed by the Petits Ossages<sup>25</sup> on the person of a Frenchman called Giguière who was hunting on the upper part of the rivière des Moens; that the nation had put the murderer to death and had sent his scalp to the said Sieur de St. Clin. Since then the Missouris<sup>26</sup> have spread a report that the Petits Ossages had killed the brother of the guilty man and that the latter, who had at first disappeared, had returned to the village. When the petits Ossages heard of this, they seized the real murderer and brought him bound to Monsieur de St. Clin. A chief of the Missouris and 15 men of the nation were there; and, although they were the first to reveal the mistake of the petits Ossages, they said they had no positive knowledge of it. But the petits Ossages, being sure that the innocent had perished for the guilty, begged

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<sup>25</sup> The Osage are a large tribe of Siouan stock, who migrated from the mouth of the Missouri, separating from kindred tribes at the river called by their name. They ascended this river, and again divided into Grand Osage (those who camped on the mountain), and Petit Osage (those who camped at the base). The latter occupied the valley of the Little Osage, and the Kansas plains to the westward. The Osage were mentioned by early explorers; Perrot and Le Sueur speak of them in the seventeenth century. Early in the eighteenth they appear in alliance with the Illinois, against the Renards. In 1719 Du Tisné visited this tribe, and the alliance then concluded was strengthened by De Bourgmont at Fort Orleans. They were thus considered French Indians, and under the care of the Louisiana colony.—Ed.

<sup>26</sup> The Missouri were of Siouan stock, and once inhabited the mouth of the river that bears their name. About the beginning of the eighteenth century they removed their chief village to the neighborhood of Grand River, Mo., where Fort Orleans was built in their midst. They were a powerful tribe until early in the nineteenth century, when the Foxes and Sauk nearly annihilated them with harassing wars. The small remnant retreated to their kinsmen the Oto, and lived among them, finally coalescing with the latter tribe.—Ed.