

ple are also to go to la Mouche noire. Such are their usual subjects of conversation when they come back in the spring from their winter quarters.

The English are continuing their intrigues to induce the nations to attack the French, through the machinations of la Mouche noire and la Demoiselle, chief of the rebellious Miamis. La Mouche noire has two brothers who are chiefs of the Kascakias domiciled at fort Chartres. He enticed away the elder who went to rivière à la Roche to take there three English captives. He expects, on his return, to bring some English into Monsieur de St. Clin's neighborhood but the exact place is not known.

The English have won the confidence of the nations of Ouabache.

Finally Monsieur de St. Clin writes me that they are seeking only to penetrate to the lands of his post; and he adds that this may happen sooner than one thinks. I will not fail to repeat the orders I have already given him to spare no effort to make the English withdraw.

Last autumn Monsieur de St. Clin effected an alliance with the Panismahas,³⁶ a very powerful nation on the Missouri whose Chiefs are absolute. That nation is governed by three brothers; the most powerful is called Stabaco. The eldest of the three went to see him, and he received him very well. He assured him that either he or his brother would go and see him this year. On leaving he said to him: "*My father, if thou hast any rebellious Children who lose their wits, let me know. Thou canst rely on me and on my nation.*" This alliance is a very advantageous one, and, by maintaining that nation in our interest, we shall be masters of the front and back of the Missouri country.

³⁶ Panimaha (Pawnee Loup, Skidi) Indians were a large band of Caddoan stock that later amalgamated with the Pawnee and lived on Loup River, Nebraska. At the time of this document it is quite probable that the Skidi also included the Arikara. See George B. Grinnell, *Pawnee Hero Stories and Folk Tales* (N. Y., 1893).—Ed.