

been condemned or are unemployed, and I will prevail on as many young men of the country as possible to proceed to Louisburg in this ship, by allowing them subsistence only, so that Mr Du Quesnel may employ them, should he determine on any expedition this winter, or in any forays he will have occasion to make next spring.

This, My Lord, is the report I am able to render you of what it is in my power to do at present and of my views in case of war, attention being had to the situation of this Colony. More favorable opportunities may occur which I shall not neglect, and as these will depend on different circumstances which may eventually arise, I beg you to be persuaded that I shall profit as much as possible by every advantage.

In regard to the two points his Majesty has been pleased to recommend to me, which are of such great importance to the defence of the Colony, and which relate to the government of the Indians and my selection of commanders of Posts, or of those to whom I shall furnish special commissions for different negotiations with the Indians; the first has always constituted the principal subject of my obligations in this Colony, and independent of the justice which, I flatter myself, My Lord, you will be pleased to render me on this occasion, I beg you to be persuaded that it will become more particularly my care in our present circumstances, and that I will spare no pains, not only to maintain the Indians in our interests, but also, to derive from them all the advantages that can possibly be expected. The dispositions in which I found them when war was declared, flatter me with favorable prejudices in their regard, and with the hope that they will afford evidence of their attachment to the French on such occasions as I shall employ them. As regards the Nations the English might employ to make some incursions on our Tribes, the Mohegans (*Loups*), who are their allies, came this summer to the number of twenty-five to ask my permission to visit their brethren of St Francis and Becancourt, for the purpose of renewing their ancient covenant, and keeping the path open for reciprocal intercourse, as they were not disposed to remain under the dominion of the English, and if I would give them land, that they would unite with their Brethren so as to enrol themselves among the number of my Children. I accorded them the permission they requested to visit the St Francis and Becancourt villages, observing on my part the proper precautions. Their interview took place in presence of the Missionaries. No suspicion was manifested adverse to the motive which made them desire to make this journey; but as to their other requests, I merely said: I consent to the path remaining open if they deserved it by their conduct, and that the favor they were asking of me, to place them on my lands would depend entirely on their future behavior. They returned content with my answers, and have assured me that I should be so with them. I am informed, for certain, that four villages of this Nation had retired to the Senecas, though I know not wherefore; they appear to me, nevertheless, unable to reflect except on the scheme they communicated to me, of wishing to quit the English dominion; but as the Senecas have urged me particularly to permit Sieur de Joncaire who had come down this summer from their village, to return to winter with them, according to the message I annex hereunto, I shall have the means of ascertaining the behavior as well of the Mohegans (*Loups*) as of the Five Nations among whom the presence of Sieur de Joncaire, whom they regard as their child, could not, in my opinion, but be highly necessary.

After having requested you, My Lord, to please to be persuaded of my entire attention to the government of the Indians, and to the details into which I have the honor to submit to you, I dare flatter myself that you will condescend to be satisfied with the care I continue to