

this nation, nor to incite any Indians of his post to take part; that his orders were to maintain the Indians in peace, union and tranquility. . .

"I made enquiries with regard to what took place, and learned that the Indians at the post of the *Sieur de la Veranderie* had fired upon the so-called *Maskoutins Poïanes*, who had demanded: "Who fired at us?" They answered: "The French." They immediately resolved to be revenged, and had recourse to all the usual means to carry out their intentions, notwithstanding the fact that the *Sieur de la Veranderie* had not been concerned in the affair. This act produced in fact the same effect as if he had been there himself.

"At the beginning of the month of June last (1736), a party of *Sioux* of the Prairies, to the number of one hundred and thirty men, found the canoe of *Father Auneau*, in which was one *Bourassa*. They captured all the French, and tied the leader (*Bourassa*) to a stake to burn him. Fortunately for him he had a slave belonging to this nation, whom he had taken from the *Monsonés*. She said to her people: 'My kinsmen, what are you about to do! I owe my life to this Frenchman. He did nothing else but good to me. If you desire to be avenged for the attack which was made upon you, all you have to do is, to go a little further on and you will find twenty-four Frenchmen, amongst whom is the son of the chief who killed your people.' They released *Bourassa* and his men, and went and totally exterminated the other party.

"This is, monseigneur, an unfortunate affair, which may perhaps be the cause of the abandonment of all the posts in this (western) country."

This letter of *Beauharnois*', dated 14th October, 1736, was, as already stated, based partly upon a report from the elder *Lavérendrye*. Unfortunately, however, the report (mentioned in *Beauharnois*' letter as of date the 8th June, 1736), is not in the Archives at Ottawa, nor, indeed, does it appear to be extant elsewhere. Although I have made a most minute search through the calendars of French Colonial documents published in the Canadian Archives Reports, no reference can be found to it there. *Parkman*, in a footnote on page 33 of *A Half Century of Conflict*, Vol. II., gives the following original documents as bearing on the Lake of the Woods incident:—"Beauharnois au Ministre, 14 Octobre, 1736; Relation du Massacre au Lac des Bois, en Juin, 1736; Journal de la Vêrandrye, joint à la lettre de M. de Beauharnois du Octobre, 1737." He, however, makes no mention of *Lavérendrye*'s letter to *Beauharnois* of 8th June, 1736, which would appear to have conveyed the first intimation of the massacre, or rather *Lavérendrye*'s fear that such a massacre must have taken place, for as yet he had no direct proof of it. It is most