

I expect to have the honor to report to you next year, My Lord, the progress of this party of Outasuas against the English on White River, whence they ought to have returned at the close of October; as well as of those which the Detroit Nations will send against the other places in the course of this winter. The principal point was to get them to move. That is now effected, and provided they experience some losses at the hands of the English, it will be more difficult to stop them, in case the circumstances of peace require us to do so, than to determine them to enter on this great war, the events of which they seem to have accepted with pleasure.

As for the Iroquois of the Five Nations, *Sieur de Celoron*, the Commandant at Niagara, writes me on the 20th of last month that one of the brothers of *Sieur de Joncaire*, whom he had sent to the Senecas to examine what was going on there, had returned within two days, and reports that the result of the Council which the Five Nations and the English held at Orange this summer has been, a refusal to take up the hatchet which the English presented them, to strike the French who should visit them, and particularly *Sieurs Joncaire* and *La Chauvignerie*; that the Iroquois invariably answered all their demands by saying, that they would not do any thing; that they did not wish to take any part in the present war against their Father, *Onontio*.

Sieur de Joncaire the younger has added, according to *Sieur de Celoron's* letter to me, that during his sojourn among the Senecas, two English messengers had arrived there with Belts, to demand a Chief of each nation to guard the house at Choueghen, who had received for answer that they might guard it themselves; and on the messengers reproaching them that plenty of them were at Niagara, the Senecas had replied to them, that this Chief was there to settle any difficulties that liquor might occasion among the Indians in the work they had to do at the Carrying place; but as for the rest, they did not wish to participate in their war with their Father.

The Senecas have likewise sent word to *Sieur de Celoron*, to assure me that, whatever proposals and advances the English may cause to be made to them, they will never declare in their favor; that they requested me to be at ease on that score, and when they would recover from the affliction caused by the death of two of their Chiefs, they should go to the Onontagués, to light up the Council fire, and prevail on that Nation to be as firm as they, in the resolution of neutrality they have adopted, provided always the Beaver traps at Choueghen and Niagara remain untouched; which are the words they used to me this summer at Montreal.

This, My Lord, is the news I have this day received, which appeared to me worthy to be reported to you. My expectations of the result are thereby encouraged, in consequence of the hopes I entertain of the seeming dispositions of the Detroit Indians and of the Iroquois of the Five Nations. *Sieur de Joncaire*, whom I have sent to the latter, has orders to maintain them therein as much as possible. This, under existing circumstances, is the most favorable thing that is to be desired.

I am, with most profound respect,

My Lord,

Your most humble and

Most obedient Servant,

BEAUMARNOIS.

Quebec, 7th November, 1744.