

That if such be the case, the Five Nations are armed to defend themselves, having been told that it was designed to raze their villages.

That four Onontagués had come to Lake Ontario to warn Sieur de Joncaire not to pass by Choueghen except at night, as the English had issued orders to take him dead or alive.

That the Five Nations had been warned in twenty-four hours that an enemy was coming against them.

That three officers were stationed at Choueghen with orders to stand an assault, and not to surrender on pain of death.

That there are scouts along the lake, on the look out for the army that is expected.

M. de Beauharnois to Count de Mauripas.

My Lord,

I have just received letters from the Commandants of Detroit and Niagara of which I am enabled to give you an account in consequence of the return of *la Gironde* and the merchantmen which have been forced by contrary winds to put back. I have already had occasion to inform you of the dispositions of the Detroit Nations in regard to the declaration of war against the English, and that they had, in consequence, accepted the hatchet which I had caused to be tendered to them for the purpose of striking the English settled on the Beautiful river in the course of this winter, and that I had engaged the Miamis and the Quaintnons to do likewise. Sieur de Longueuil writes me on the 1st of September, transmitting to me the message to and answer of the 4 Nations, copy whereof I annex. These Indians continue in the same sentiments, and he is even flattered by the ardor and zeal they evince on this occasion; on receiving intelligence of the arrival of several Englishmen at the White river, he immediately raised a party of thirty-five picked Outaonais to plunder and kill them, or to fetch them prisoners to him, and set out on the 17th of September with every desirable demonstration of joy. This officer adds, that he is so much the more determined to urge on this party, as he is informed that the English were loaded with powder and ball, and resolved to annihilate the French Traders who were going to that quarter; that he has farmed out, as he informs me, seven places¹ for his Majesty's profit, pursuant to the orders I had sent him last year; that he has, also, sent messages to the Indians seated on this White river, whereof I had the honor to inform you last year, in answer to their request to him to send them back some Frenchmen, and that they would not suffer any Englishmen there; whereby he prevails on them, in like manner, to take up the hatchet and join their brethren of Detroit. I have no doubt, My Lord, but they will have determined on this course when they will see the Detroit Nations moving, and I have none either of their driving off the English in their neighborhood, by their incursions in the course of this winter there as well as on the Beautiful River, and against the Flatheads, whom they include in this war, and with whom it is to be expected the Hurons will not risk the entering into any negotiations for peace, even if, as they have been accused, they had felt disposed to do so of late years.

¹ *livres, qu? lieux.*