

François Le Guerne, *Copy of a letter from the missionary François Le Guerne to Jacques Prevost de La Croix, a copy of which was sent to Augustin de Drucour*, Archives nationales d'outre-mer (France) COL C11A 87/fol.388-399v
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Belair vers Cocagne le 10 Mars

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?? ??
?? ??
Missionary of the
Sauvages of l'Acadie
at a M Prevost ??
Isle Royale of which
The same was also.
addressed ?? ??
to Drucour Governor

Mr

The zeal that I have always had toward the acadians of whom I have been a missionary for four years obliges me to write to you on their behalf. I believe that you are well informed about what happened in this unhappy land since the siege of Beausejour until the beginning of winter. I was during this interval, the only priest and almost always the only french. I made some arrangements with the english in favour of my habitants without derogating from what my country demands of me, but I discovered the trap they were setting for me, and I knew how thanks to God, to retire in time. Seeing myself as the only witness of what happened or at least the only one capable of providing knowledge of what happened, I ?? some memories that I believe should be sent to France and canada. I remove here most of the details which will present nothing new to you, without avoiding what happened prior as far as necessary. I will indicate simply and in abbreviated what happened since the beginning of winter. And you will see the embarrassment that we ???
The dangers we run, The Needs that urge us and if it is not in your power to show Compassion and kindness towards us
Towards the end of Autumn, Mr de Boishebert carried out the General's order who prompts

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the acadians to retreat to the Woods opposite

their homes.(a) at that time there were in french
 acadie about 250 families placed near
 the rivers of chipoudy, peticoudiac and memeramcouq;
 the latter was the most exposed not being further
 than 7 leagues from Beausejour; but the *habitant*
 retreated half a league into the wood was
 in security. The little grain he had harvested joined
 to his Cattle provided him with sufficient Subsistence
 to survive through winter and take him to boarding time
 He would be happy if he had kept the retreat, but
 interest, indocility, inexperience and false
 security have always been fatal to the acadians. We
 soon imagined that the english was incapable
 to travel in the harsh winter. I tried in vain to disillusion
 them. we reappeared in the gardens many even
 relocated to their house. The english always worried that some
 projects were formed against him
 sent 90 men looking around memeramcouq who
 took three of ours on the Twelfth Eve. It was
 the greatest of our evils. Our main
 strength consisted of our enemy's ignorance
 about our situation. At that time
 Mr de Boishebert marched at the head of a party
 of 250 men, both *Sauvages* and acadiens, to
 strike at the Baye verte and around
 Beausejour, but from then on, it boded ill in
 success of his expedition. He even judged that he
 had to differ by at least 15 days

(a)Mr de Niverville
 also at that time
 six prisoners
 ?? english

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But here is the most fatal of our misfortunes, we
 Stroke a snake that almost killed us a certain Daniel, swiss
 by nation, a Supposedly resident and deserter of chibouctou
 who found himself among us for 4 years. he had been a servant of
 Mr. Manach and of some of our commanders, he served as a spy
 for Mr Loutre against the english. He was. Father Germain's right-
 hand man this winter. he was even charged with some.
 Commission Concerning the King's affairs (a) This
 despicable man because of a few slight discontent,
 passed among the english towards January 15, we can not express
 all the evil that he has caused us he has wits, Writes well enough,
 speaks with ease, informs himself, and reasons about politics.

this miserable man reported to Beausejour's Commander about the situation and the intentions of the inhabitants who at mines, at the royal port and all these districts escaped the english. The french projects to take these poor fugitives where they must embark in a word As he knew everything, he informed them on everything. He then added a thousand impostures when arriving at the Fort he found Mr Scot making preparations to come the along the coast surprise Mr de Boishebert's Camp in Cocagne, what did he not do to encourage him but fortunately for us the information he gave on this point Served only to persuade Mr. Scot of the Impossibility for him to conduct this Entreprise by land. He also said aptly for us that there would be an officer here all winter with a quantity of *Savage*. This miserable also convinced Mr Scot to fit out a canoe to go

(a)An English Capt.
that we made prisoner
at the St Jean River
declared that this Daniel
linked 3 times with the english
during last summer.
passed for the ?
we do not think that we have
more than ?? among us
and we hope
that the english
will not close enough
anymore to molest us

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seize father Germain and father La Brosse who were staying in houses at the top of Peticoudiac at 15 leagues of Beausejour, but the amount of ice, or rather Providence caused the project to fail. I would not end if I wanted to follow this traitor in all these disgraceful actions I got these details from Pierre Suret who recently deserted from Beauséjour All this knowledge put the english within reach of hurting us a lot. We are however working to secure ourselves by giving a New face to our business, we changed our Camp and the inhabitants changed their hideaways. We stand on our Guards. It is all we can do. But I come back to Mr. de Boishebert, he

Went on a campaign around January 20. He was then unaware of Daniel's desertion, he had all reasons to hope for the goodwill of his People. The first discoveries announced him favourable opportunities but he was not aware that Daniel was then introducing the english to surprise him. This miserable Knew roughly where he was to camp. The english took advantage of this knowledge, left on the 25th of the same month with 230 men and encounter before dawn a House in the Woods, situated at half league from Mr. de Boishebert's Camp (a) he intended to surprise him there, but having found no one there and fearing to go further, he resumed the road to Beausejour after having set the fire in this House. Mr. de Boishebert was preserved from the Surprise, as he had several guards further who warned him of the approaches of the enemy

(a)the commandant Scot
?? same party
?? not on
?? Mr de Boishebert
?? to pilot

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As he was leaving before dawn to go from Gabiouer on the road to Beausejour; he left at daybreak by detoured roads and fell with the bravest on the rear Guard of the enemy, he would have made great carnage if all the people had followed him, but many frightened by the number of Enemies and Fearing furthermore to be encircled did not dare to leave the wood; however, the action was engaged and lasted half an hour the english seeing his rear guard too weak made the vanguard withdraw for support and began to invest in us. Mr. de Boishebert seeing only a small number of brave men at his side and consequently finding himself in the impossibility of resisting a force infinitely Superior Withdrew cautiously; in a way that The enemy judged that he was using pretense and dared not pursue. The english had a few injuries and lost two men including a louis who was highly regarded by his Folks. All ours withdrew safe and sound Meanwhile 20 Savages sent by Mr. Boishebert at Baye verte burned buildings there. They took eight scalps and a prisoner who declared that we They were working hard at making snowshoes and that

Clothing for 3 regiments, who are supposed to come from England this spring had arrived in Chibouctou

During his stay in these camps Mr de Boishebert worked jointly with father Germain to the Subsistance of the neediest families and of 4 to 500 Indian families that he had here for parties. The funds he had received this fall from Canada could not be enough ???

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We had to buy more than 600 Horned Beasts an expenditure which exceeded more than 80,000? in three months and a half that he was in Cocagne. He intended to stay longer. new incidents have recalled him incessantly to the St Jean river

On January 8 a small ship arrived loaded with 32 families from Port Royal who ??? number of 225 people. They were being taken to Baston But having moved away from a large vessel that was Escorting them, they made themselves masters of the ship where There were only 8 crew members and they arrived fortunately at the Riviere St Jean where they knew they could find shelter

This catch was closely followed by another whose we still regret the misuse (a) ten Sauvages surprised a Big Gadelle at night in the haven of the Etang. This catch was rich it Contained effects, provisions for officers in Port Royal with some letters of some Consequence and Gazettes (b) But for lack of a good interpreter we were able to understand them sufficiently we understood however that the english were defeated towards Fort St Frederic and that they project ??? the St Jean River at the start of spring as an important post, in what they seem to me to know their interests well. This River indeed gives an easy entry into the Canada. The enemy has ??? to chase away all The Sauvage Nations assure them of the possession of all Lacadie and the Pentagouet Coast, complete freedom in the baye françoise, with Plenty of Convenient Havens in Any Season and easy to defend, not to mention besides that

(a) The *Sauvages* have landed the best ? effects and led the Vessel at the river St Jean but there

?? more than a little
quantity of lard x
Rum
(b) The latest Gazette
?? of 18?
Reported that Mr.
de Rigault Governor
? 3 Rivieres was killed
on the first Bordée ?
on the case where
we lost 2 Vessels
and that Mr Le Baron
??? we have
thought dead is in the
??? this york and ???
??? that he will recover
of his wounds

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this River Provides a field for a well Established
province, where the bounty of his land in addition to
the fishery would yield more than Necessary.
Nothing convinced them more of the importance
of this post that the Conduct of Mr Boishebert
who with a handful of his People remained there this
summer and with the little outings that he made there,
harassed them to the point of making them despair as
I learn from Pierre Ferret.

On February 9, an english vessel anchored
Under the French flag in the St Jean River's haven
and having seen two vessels which
happened to pass by, he sent 4 french deserters
on the ground who pretended that they were being followed
by several french ships, that they were all coming from
Louisbourg to warn the english which we knew
had the intention of soon settling on the St.
Jean River and that they were looking for a local practitioner
to anchor in the harbour,
More cunning people would have seen the danger
there was at committing oneself. one of our unfortunate acadians
felt directly into the all-visible trap.
He was hardly on board when the english put his
pavilion and punched him.
The families of Port Royal which I have already mentioned
Were in the vicinity (a) and having rushed
at the noise, they noticed that the english was approaching
to remove the vessel where they had escaped to
Wasting no time, they landed a few
stones and having placed them advantageously
and brought all the weapons they had

besides, they made such a fire on the english that they were forced to flee as they had come

(a) we made them
pass last
At the top of the river

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This Vessel apparently came in port Royal Looking for news. All these Events required the presence of Mr. de Boishebert. he therefore left Cocagne on February 15 leaving in Saptau (?) Mr Granpré de Niverville his Second with a number of *Sauvages* to Contribute to harassing enemy x to favour the escape of the inhabitants. Like I arrange the escape of the families, who last autumn have past from these neighborhoods to L'Isle St Jean and that On the appearance of affairs I have the same Feelings towards those who still remain with us he asked me to continue my care on this subject together with Mr. de Niverville. We work therefore presently to Save these poor acadians who did not want to go to the english. The number in truth is not Considerable and they are furthermore Dispersed and in the most unfortunate Situations. but after all they are french they are important to us; they are Christian, they are very important to Jesus Christ: Here are Sufficient Reasons not to abandon them, there are some at the Cap de Sable, at Port Royal, at Mines and finally in our Rivers of memerancouq, Peticoudiac x Chipoudy

Couriers that came here from Port Royal towards the end of December have taught us that there is no betrayal that english did not use against the *l'habitant*, either to Take him either to Probe his intentions. A letter was supposedly attributed to Mr. LeLoutre addressed to Mr. Daudin announcing that the first of these missionaries was soon arriving in Beausejour with ? Canadian or with more than once, pretended French officers

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who I say is the sign that an army or a Fleet is approaching. There were several couriers about

armies, fleets, frigates, and parties to Support the internment of acadians. They were the most flattering hopes. They were removing the families allegedly only to prevent them from taking arms for the french, following orders of which Mr. Hocquart was a bearer and peace would bring them all back to their old home

We learned from these Couriers that only about 30 families escaped in Port Royal, the majority retired to the woods with the inhabitants of Cap Sable, the other hide in the wood close by. People in Cap Sable have not yet been worried. they confined themselves in the woods and Have with them Mr. Desenclaves Port Royal's missionary (a) I could not find if they had the intention to come towards us. I would surely think that they might want to wait in the woods waiting for the outcome of the war. They sent for the News with the Port Royal fugitives. These sent them to get news from us As I have said they want to do everything possible to reach us. We promised them all the assistance which will depend on You.

Towards the end of autumn there were only 80 families at Mines (b) and I learned recently that only 10 or 11 remain who are hidden in The woods and who are asking for help to save themselves In our rivers of memeramcouq, peticondiac and chipoudy, as I said there remain about 250 families, of this number 60 are women whose Husbands were brought to england. To make

(a) Mr Daudin
Chauvreulx and Lemaire
were arrested towards
Mid July, driven
in Chibouctou and put
in vessels
separately, it is
everything we know

(b) there was at
mines before these
troubles about
a thousand inhabitants

the situation of these families known it seems necessary for me to explain what happened before. as soon as things started to fall apart in this country, I judged that we had nothing

better to do than to throw yourself into the arms of the french,
from then on, in truth, most of the inhabitants had
gone to the english forts, they were detained there and
I had not been able to oppose this approach. In fact, the
inhabitants looked upon the english as their master; they believed
that they were safe under the terms of the Capitulation, they
believed that they were obligated to obedience; Mrs de Vergor and
Le Loutre had said on leaving that it was in
the interest of the inhabitant to be very docile; the english
concealing his intentions even appeared to be working
to improve the institutions. It was said that the order came
to go to the fort to take, land arrangements. In such Circumstances
I could not advise disobedience Without burdening myself with all
the misfortunes that Arrived. If indeed I had recommended to
refuse Obedience, the Majority of the inhabitants persuaded
That they would find the old tranquillity under the
Reign of the english and attentive Only to a
Blind interest in their land, would never have Listened to me;
and the rebellion of the others would have provided a
the english a Specious and unique pretext to Remove
Anyone who would have been oppressed by promises, violence
or someone: I would not have been able to avoid considering
myself as the author of the misfortunes of acadie; the habitant
being unable to disentangle the true motivations springs behind
the english's actions could not have thought otherwise and
would have considered me

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responsible for the disasters. added to all these
Reasons the fact that I remained the only priest in these areas
As things were going, Religion, Charity, and
the very interest of France Demanded from me that I take all the
possible measures to remain there and that for this purpose I was
obliged to simply promise the english that I would not
touch on affairs of state and that furthermore seeing
that the acadians either court the english, or by
imprudence provide information at the fort about everything that
was happening, I could not open my mouth against
the english Without exposing me to important business that
would have turned out as much to the detriment of the l'habitant
than to my loss
These reasons are more than sufficient to
Justify my conduct, in this difficult circumstance
and in order not to rigorously judge the
inhabitants who went to the english Fort.

I return now to those who found themselves
Free and towards whom I have acted differently. As soon

as I saw the others arrested at the fort, I saw that the arrangements towards the english were wrong and that I couldn't do better for religion and for France than to save the rest of my flock. The english Commander with his seductive promises Captious offers and his presents that I did not dare to refuse the 1rst time thought that I was open to his interests; Believing therefore that he could trust me he told me that he wanted to see me soon and alone. The 1st quality of a Missionary, if he is worthy of his name, it is to be an Honest man and the first duty of an honest man

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is an inviolable fidelity to one's country. I kept to it Despite the many ambushes that he set for me and I answered him politely and in Substance that I did not distrust his excellence, but that I apprehended that he received from his general some orders unfavourable to missionaries, that he would be obliged to execute against me and since the orders would be to embark the inhabitants that the only party that was left to me was to retire, that I would stay in the country under his good pleasure if he received a counter order for the inhabitants; to another letter in which he was again pressing me to banish all defiance and go to the fort, I answered that I remembered that Mr Maillard had been embarked despite a positive assurance from an english government and that I thought it better to withdraw than to expose myself in any way one can well think that at that time and since I kept myself with great care, almost always hiding in the woods from which I come out when it is necessary to serve the inhabitants, without stopping in risky places and I flatter myself with the grace of the Lord that the enemy will have no hold on me. In this position I advised very strongly and a thousand times to the inhabitants who found themselves outside the fort not to go there. I gave the same Advice to all the women who receive frequent orders to embark. I explained to them that by going to the english they were taking away all hopes for returning and put themselves and their children in danger of loosing the religion, that they had to go and join the french, that their nation held out its arms for them

that with a little courage and fatigue one could approach it, that I would act with all my might to provide them with assistance, that the sight of their misery would affect our compatriots and that in this case their husbands would be able to join them wherever they would be transported, otherwise they would be exposed together to all misfortunes.

These reasons that the sequence of events Proved to have been justified were hardly listened to except in my old Mission which included the rivers from Chipoudy, Peticodiac, Memerancouq, Tintamare with its dependencies and I had the consolation of seeing that Until today, no woman there has been embarked, except for four or five who were Surprised and abducted by force from Chipoudy. in the rest of the country I mean around Beausejour served by Mr LeLoutre and vizien and where since a few years the people who arrived there were prouder more annoying and less respectful towards priests, I found only a small number who wanted to follow my advice. Most of these unfortunate Women seduced by fake news, intimidated by specious fears, carried away by a excessive attachment to Husbands they had permission to see too often, turning a blind eye to The voice of religion, their Missionary and to all Reasonable Consideration, threw themselves blindly and as if out of despair in the english vessels numbering 140 (a) one would have said that reason was waiting for them there to discover their extravagant behaviour that would have been perfect then for fixing. I got it from one deserter, but the evil no longer had a remedy

(a) ?? in this Occasion, the ??? of this show?? of these women did not want to board with them their older daughters and sons for the only reason of Religion

The Beginning of this affair came around August 10, the women embarked for the St Michel and finally towards mid-October, they Were taken with their husbands and about 140 other

inhabitants that we have all placed in new homes in Carolina. Those who embarked at Port Royal and Mines, were gradually pushed to embark almost for the same reasons. They are however more excusable (If however one can blame a poor inhabitants who find themselves without strength at the discretion of a treacherous and Cruel Enemy) having found themselves without missionaries who could counsel them and in a distant place that made their escape quite difficult. They currently have all the leisure to regret the offers that Mr LeLoutre had given them So Often reiterated if they wanted to Save themselves. They Have been Placed on the Coasts of Baston where they have the grief to see even their tenderest children Dispersed at the service of the individuals of this city. while part of the acadians was being sent to England, another group was approaching the french; as you know the Abenakis Went to the Island St Jean. I also passed About 500 souls from around Beausejour and Tintamare on the same Isle with the good help of Monsieur de Villejouin, whom I cannot praise enough for the politeness, kindness and charity he showed for these poor fugitives. I pass quickly over these facts well known to you not to abuse your patience by an excessive length. I intended to be less extensive, but the facts are clearly linked together and present themselves so naturally one after the other that I couldn't quite

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deny them entry into, a narrative where they all have an equal right to appear. but finally it is necessary to resume the last details on our situation ???

There are here as I have already marked more than once 250 families whose situation is much to pity

The resolution the english have not to suffer any acadians in these townships, the threats he reiterates that he will capture all those he will be able to reach, the great difficulty where Canada is already very busy to providing ??? and food, The uncertainty of success in case of war concerning the help expected of France, the great famine and the extreme misery that threatens and which we even already experienced in part, all those Reasons joined to an infinity of others whose detail would be too long to explain, demonstrates clearly to all who reflect, the need they have to work to save themselves without further delay

According to intentions at least provisional
of Mr Le General, we should all Approach the seaside in the
spring to cross into Canada
but two particular reasons have engaged us
to avoid this Season and to urge us to go on
the ices incessantly until the places of embarkation
The 1st is that in the spring the portages are
impracticable and that by postponing passing them to
later one exposes oneself to being taken by the english or to
running out of carriages if it becomes absolutely necessary to
withdraw
The 2nd is that as long as the acadians are in the neighbourhood
from their dwellings and houses, they
always have some pretext to leave the Wood (a) In
the meantime the english is coming, he captures a few

a) there are some who
hope intensely
to be able to sow
this spring the
things like them
are

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and takes them away. The greatest evil is not
that someone is taken away, but that the enemy
learn from there, the sad situation of our
affairs. The english came three times this winter to
Memeramcouq. The first time he surprised 3
men, the second three others, the third time
having been guided by one of those he had
caught he advanced by night in the Wood
Until a place where more than 20 families had
Built shelters but luckily Fear had
pushed these poor people further into the forest
5 or 6 days ago. thus the english found only
old shacks and could not carry out the Cruel
orders. Pierre Suret reported that the Commander
of this party had orders to seize all
acadians in this place, to kill immediately
all those who would be there in a condition to bear arms,
to scalp them (a) to bring all
the rest after having left at the end of a stake
a letter for Mr. de Boishebert approximately in
this style. You have started, we will continue
in the same tone until you withdraw
yourself of these Cantons with your *Sauvages* you tell
your *sauvages* that As many english they kill will be as many
steps closer to paradise(b) We will add that it will be two for our
People by as many acadians they will destroy

It appears by what I have just wrote that there
Is no more safety at the Rivers for the acadians
And that their best option is to take advantage of the ices
To get to the sea coast where they will be
safer from the enemy and close

(a) this man told us
that it is the traitor
Daniel who suggested
this notice to the english
as the only way
to have Mr.
Boishebert go away who
?? with his *Sauvages*
to prevent the
acadians of attacking
their men
(b) the depictable
Daniel told the
English than the *Sauvages*
went to find
Mr Manach for
discuss on the
??? This Missionary
spoke to them so and so
?? that you have to come
?? move
????????????
????? english that
???????? ????
???????? steps
To climb in
????

to all, either to Embark If absolutely necessary
or to have Food, that will have to be brought
to them if we want to keep them on
these Coast, and that they could have without exposing themselves
by coming to get them here at the rivers. Not to mention that
we have several families absolutely incapable
of transporting food through portages of 7. 10 and
even of 20 Leagues, Those are for sure the
women whose husbands were removed and who for the
most have only Young children unable to
provide no assistance. I often explained to them
these reasons. I went to the seaside to
seek asylum for them and for a month I have not ceased
to call them, but unfortunately none is in a hurry.
The acadien is of an irresolution that is surprising.

In general one would not want to be taken for anything in the world, or would rather be led to Michel ??? on the other hand, one has to resolve Oneself to a great sacrifice. If one goes to Canada, he must say Adieu to his country, to his habitation, to his house He has to abandon animals and so many other objects for Which one has a disproportionate attachment. It's hard to Just think or imagine even with some reason that it will be necessary to suffer a lot of misery before Embarking, even during the crossing to Canada One imagines with some kind of ??? that once in Canada he will not return from this exile. This the way these good People who have never yet left their country reason. to hear them people are miserable everywhere else, where one they say can only eat a quarter of ?? the meat Until recent years l'acadie was a paradise on earth we still think we we will soon peace or that Lacadie maybe will can be taken over by a French fleet next summer or in two years at most

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that we could surely hide while waiting And live eating the cattle (which is only within reach of a small number) we would still like to wait for news from Canada, we assemble (a) we deliberate, one hides well, the other poorly hidden is discovered; is someone taken, we tremble, we want to leave, but we soon reassure ourselves, we fall asleep in a false tranquillity we live in flattering but often chimerical expectations such is the conduct of this population that its experience makes unhappy, anyway I hope that once all their reflections are done they will almost all go to the seaside before the end of spring Memeramcouq. goes every Day (b) and the other rivers will imitate its example. But it's not all about getting to the sea, we must survive until further notice x here is one of the most embarrassing points, because of weather misfortunes the we were only able to do a very small part of the Harvest

This is what has reduced a large amount of us to live this winter of meat only and it will be the Only food of three-quarters and a half of the people before the beginning of May, you will say that we can live simply on meat and that these habitants must not not miss meat in a country well supplied with Animals I answer to this objection. 1° we simply live on meat but very badly: we would require a temperament *sauvage* to survive on that, so we have a kind of

epidemic disease Caused apparently by indigestion accompanied by headaches and sharp pains followed by strong dysentery. This disease is long, still reign presently and removed several people 2° one would subsist, although badly with the meat if it was good, but now we can only hope to get some when summer returns This fall the animals were in ??? we made

(a) we ask for advice
?? missionary one
?? officer in prison
does as he pleases

(b) we have here
currently about
?? families

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provisions of good meat it is true, but in too small quantity, we could only make very little fodder and again only in the late season. The small quantity combined with poor quality cannot sustain the animals, they are thin and weak at the point that many cannot walk all the way to the seashore

However, this is what we have to live with Until providence sends us food from elsewhere. Sir, Judge our situation: in truth these meats are so puny that the *Savages* reject them as predators as they may be. We no longer know what ??? quantity of these nations that we have kept here to go to against the enemy.

3° Finally the leanness of the animals, especially without other types of food increases the ordinary consumption by the double and beyond. besides what expense maintaining the *savages* ! you have to have undertaken it to understand it added to all this that there are poor people who only have very few animals; others have lost some, and others have had the pain of seeing their Cattle taken by the english: I dare therefore ensure that if help does not come to us before summer that famine will see here the cruelest of spectacles Mr Bigot informs me that he will send food here as soon as he can, Mr. General writes me the same but the ices and the necessary precautions needed in our position will make this relief too late. We are already in great misery That's why I take the freedom to turn to you for help at the very opening of navigation. We need everything, flour, lard, peas, fat, powder

sinker (a) especially Royal, hook, lines, canvas blankets, and a little tobacco for our poor people who suffer a lot in such a situation where the pound sells for up to 10 or 20#. with the

(a) bullets too and some ??, some wine, molasses, alcohol for the sick It is more than 3 months that we do not have any kind of drink

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Help that you could send us we would be able to wait for shipments from Canada. I already wrote you that we are in this camp about 250 families: you will judge easily by this the quantity of goods we need while waiting for a more substantial delivery. I notice that this memoir is very long. However, I still have some news to detail which may have some consequences. These pieces of information are about some plans the english are considering for this spring. I learned it from pierre furet whom I have already mentioned. This man was a Militia Captain in Peticoudiac, he has spirit, reasons very well, is well versed in affairs and has often been employed by our M^s officers in Delicate circumstances. The english kept him this winter at the Fort as a man of spirit, well acquainted with the country and who could be helpful to them. His pleasant Conversation gave him a easy access to Mr Scot who assured that he could trust him spoke to him quite openly. he knows the english language which allowed him to engage conversation with everyone, who gradually got used to having no more reserves towards him. He escaped from Beausejour on the 26th of the past month: 4 days later he came to join us he reported the following (a)

Mr. Scot continues to command Beauséjour. I have Reason to think that he is Known in Louisbourg. I could have detailed here this officer's different traits of character I will only say that he is considered with reasons as the Author of most of the projects which Concern lacadie

There are in the three forts of Beausejour Menagoueche and Gaspareaux about 500 men
????????????????????*Inlisible line* ??????????????????????
Distributed relatively equally for the custody of these three Flanks

(a) we must remember

? general than Mrs.
the english are strong
?? the taste of
persuading themselves

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the most considerable sorties the english has ever been able
?? this winter by bringing together the forces of Beausejour and
mesagouèche which consist of only 238 men

Mr. Scot has orders to send a certain
number of his militiamen to reinforce the
Chibouctou Garrison

This officer said that at the beginning of spring
1200 men will come to these quarters to
Entirely chase the *savage* nations
and seize the acadians they keep hidden (a)
that there will be early spring for these actions some privateers
towards Gedaic (b) and the mouths of the St Jean River
where we know that the acadians of Mines and Port Royal
have to escape
they no longer want to suffer any acadians in these regions
we are threatened above all by the Scottish highlanders
of which 1500 are expected for Lacadie and by the english
Savages
of the latest there are about only ten of them currently at
Beauséjour
The english seem indifferent about the acadians who will escape
this fall to the french and even pretend not to talk about it
It is said that our people like Carolina (something
that I find hard to believe) that we find ourselves well among them
that a collection was made for them for them throughout the
colony, that boards and nails were provided for them to lodge
and mark dwellings, they are however
limited to a particular district from which they cannot leave
on pain of being killed by the first *Savage* or
english who would find them outside the limits assigned
It is said that a disease spread in one of the
Buildings filled with our acadians and that a considerable amount
of them died
When Pierre Suret, left they seemed to ignore
in Beausejour the adventure of the two buildings that ???

a) we intend to
keep watch to
defend ourselves or flee
if needed. This last
option will
not otherwise difficult
by canoe
and because of the advantage
of the location

(b) it would be desirable
also that someone of
our frigates ???
some time on these
coasts to insure our Convoys
and cover the departure of
the habitants if it is necessary
to withdraw. But in this case
we should concur on a signal
to recognize

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fled to the St Jean River and the ?? ??
that the *Savages* have procured for us in the lands of
the *païs d'en haut*
It is suspected that another vessel loaded
with *habitants* of port royal escaped again we had
the same suspicion about a building loaded with
families at the top of the Baie.
Mr Scot confessed to Suret that when they
locked the *habitants* in the forts that wanted to try
first of all to have them sign purely and
simply for the english and that they became entirely determined
to take them only when they saw clearly
that the *habitant* wanted to hear nothing about it. the *habitant*
wisely thought that in the case of the Signature
the english would have seen the opportunity to take them
and dispose of them as they wanted without France being able to
do anything in their favour
Mr Scot promises himself as the moon and the sun as usual.
He says that Without a sign from heaven the english
will soon conquer the rest of north america;
that they have 35 ships of the line (a) and
2 large mortars, with forty thousand men to serve
in the Colonies by land and by sea next summer, that
??? under the orders of their Generals. the one who
Will command on the ground will descend from the heights
of Canada to quebec Burning and
Destroying everything in its path. Meanwhile
The General of the Fleet after taking Louisbourg
Will do the same going up the river. Their purpose
is to force the population to take refuge in the
cities and thus reduce them to
surrender promptly. This plan would be very good if
we let them do it. He maintains against all appearances

(a) he winters from

that the english have for them. Five ?? ???
that spain will keep perfect neutrality?
That france is devoid of maritime forces, that the
French King has no feelings if he does not seek
revenge for what he did it to him in the ???
of Beauséjour. he admits, however, that the
french are cunning and that they are never more to
Fear then when they seem less so

These M^s still pretend that they took
merchant vessels from us that were returning to france
last Autumn. I don't know if these are not
vessels from the East India Company

They confess that they work for peace and say
that there will be great war or great peace. Let us pray
that it will be a constant and lasting peace
worthy of the good faith that we had for
An enemy who has behaved towards us I dare
Say it like a true pirate.

Mr de Boishebert has 22 of the bravest *Sauvages* Canibas leave to
strike at Beausejour

Mr. the General recently told me that his
intention is that we give no rest to the enemy
that we harass him, that we ??? With all might
He asks Mr de Boishebert to send

The acadians on Isle St Jean, or at St
Jean River, but I think this order is only provisional
and we see quite clearly even by what he does the honour to write
to me that he is awaiting the order of the
Court to dispose of the acadians (a) While not wanting
To impose his leadership on the acadians of this country Mgr
Leveque informs me that Mr le General does not want
to take upon himself to make the acadians pass
In Canada, anyway I always call

(a) we are told that Mr
the General kept a
profound silence on
last ??? that
you sent him that he
had nothing absolutely
transpired. Which has
Surprised the public. We are
However has ??? ??
Movements multiply
?? ?? the circumstance that
France is far from
wanting to give up
Acadia

??? ??? they will be more in security there
and will be close to everything. As I have
Had the honour to write to you above Mr de
Boishebert has just brought to Canada the
crews of the two buildings taken at the St Jean river
he took as well six prisoners that Mr.
Niverville had taken this fall. This last
capture was made upon the first orders
That Mr de Vaudreuil gave in acadia and upon
Which he gave marks of well-deserved satisfaction
to Mr de Niverville
I beg you sir to excuse the length of
This relation. I feared that wanting too much
To abbreviate I would have removed some useful or even
Important facts. In these kinds of descriptions, it seems to me
That the choice that I made is the least subject to
inconvenience I beg you again to receive this
Kind of memoir as the insurance of the high
Esteem and the deep respect with which I have
The honour, Mr. to be your very humble
And very obedient servant, signed Leguerne priest
Missionary

For a true copy of the original
Prevost