

with his subjects, contenting himself with imparting his orders through one of his officers. I do not guarantee these facts; but it is certain that if Perrot did not somewhat exaggerate the truth, things have changed greatly since then; yet it is true, as I have myself witnessed, that the chiefs of the Miamis are more respected and less accessible than those of most of the other Indian tribes of Canada.¹

1671.

Be that as it may, Tetinchoua, says Perrot, informed of the coming of an envoy of the general of the French, wished to give him a reception that would attest his own power.

His
reception
of the
Governor's
envoy.

He sent out a detachment to meet him, giving it orders to receive him in military style. The detachment advanced in battle order, all the braves adorned with feathers, armed at all points, uttering war cries from time to time. The Pouteouatamis who escorted Perrot, seeing them come in this guise, prepared to receive them in the same manner, and Perrot put himself at their head. When the two troops were in face of each other, they stopped, as if to take breath, then all at once, Perrot's took the right, the Miamis the left, all running in Indian file, as though they wished to gain an advantage to charge.

But the Miamis, wheeling in the form of an arc, the Pouteouatamis were invested on all sides. Then both uttered loud yells, which were the signal for a kind of combat. The Miamis fired a volley from their guns, which were loaded only with powder, and the Pouteouatamis returned it in the same way; after this they closed, tomahawk in hand, all the blows being received on the tomahawks. Peace was then made; the Miamis presented the calumet to Perrot, and led him with all his escort into the chief town, where the Great Chief assigned him a guard of fifty men, regaled him splendidly after the custom of the country, and gave him the diversion of a game of ball.²

¹ For the Miami chief and the respect shown him, see Relation, 1671, pp. 45-7.

² This whole account of the reception is from de la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale, ii.,