

1687-90. the sachems and the French were seated. When each one had taken his place, an orator rose, and made quite a long speech, apparently in praise of the warriors, and the great service which their new allies had just rendered the nation. Then a woman appeared, holding a long reed in her hand; the warriors followed her, each, according to his rank, carrying a bow and two arrows in his hand, preceded by their wives, who bore the scalps their husbands had brought back. The two young prisoners, whose lives were spared, closed the line; and, as one of them had been wounded, he rode on horseback.

As these warriors passed before the orator, they took the scalps from the hands of their wives, and presented them to him. He received them with both hands, turned them toward the four cardinal parts, and laid them on the ground. After the procession, great platters of sagamity were served up; and, before any one touched it, the orator took some in a large wooden bowl, and presented it as an offering to the scalps; then he lighted a pipe of tobacco, and blew some of the smoke on the same scalps. This done, the banquet began. Besides the sagamity, they served up the tongues of the enemy who had been killed; some of the flesh of the woman, whose torture has been described, was brought to the two young prisoners, and they were forced to eat it. The whole terminated with songs and dances, and the ceremonies were then renewed in other cabins.

Course pursued by the French.

After this expedition, there being nothing to detain the French among the Ceniz, they assembled to take their final resolve.

Hiens began, at first, by declaring that he did not approve the project of endeavoring to find the Illinois; that he foresaw insurmountable difficulties; and that, moreover, he did not wish to return to France, to lay his head on the scaffold. The last argument was unanswerable; but, as it was the only one that had really induced Hiens to take the desperate course which he followed, those who