

1688. those very Hurons of Michillimackinac, who had been so frequently and not unjustly suspected of collusion with the English and Iroquois.

Daring act  
of a Huron  
chief.

They had as chief Kondiaronk, better known in our Relations under the name of "the Rat," a man of ability, extremely brave, and the Indian of the highest merit that the French ever knew in Canada. It had cost Mr. de Dénonville no little pains to draw him to our interests ;<sup>1</sup> but he had miscalculated, if he thought to dispose of this new ally at his pleasure. The Rat having pledged his word to make active war on the Iroquois, started from Michillimackinac with a picked band of Hurons, bent on distinguishing himself by some brilliant achievement.<sup>2</sup> He took Catarocouy on his road, and on arriving there learned that they were negotiating a settlement with the cantons ; that the treaty was well advanced, and that the Governor General was expecting at Montreal ambassadors and hostages in the name of the whole Iroquois nation. The commandant at Catarocouy added that the best thing he could do under such circumstances was to return home with his warriors, and that he would give boundless offence to Mr. de Dénonville, if he committed the least hostility against the Iroquois.

The Rat seemed at first somewhat surprised at this news ; he nevertheless controlled himself, and although convinced that his nation and their allies were being sacrificed, he let no complaint escape him.<sup>3</sup> He withdrew from the fort, leaving the French under the impression that he took the route to his village ; but he had quite a different design in his head. He had inquired as to the course to be followed by the Iroquois deputies and hostages on their way to Montreal ; he proceeded to await them at Hungry Bay (Anse de la Famine), where he lay in

<sup>1</sup> Kondiaronk is transformed by La Hontan into Adario. Voyages, i., 117, 189. Michillimackinac, May 26, 1688, notes Le Rat's departure at the head of 100 men. Voyages, i., 117, 190.

<sup>2</sup> La Hontan, in his letter from <sup>3</sup> La Hontan, Voyages, i., p. 190.