

1696.

other emissaries of the commandant profited by it to open the eyes of the most excited, to the consequences of the step they had just taken, and when the Sieur de la Motte Cadillac saw them waver he assembled them. He told them that however little they reflected on all that had occurred since he had been among them, they would see that it was not he who had deceived them, as they had complained in unmeasured terms; but that they had let evil-minded men, whom they ought to distrust, seduce them.

As he perceived that this reproach touched them, he deemed it useless to make them a longer address, and without giving them time to consult, he proposed to them to send out several parties against the Iroquois, who were actually hunting with the Hurons and some Ottawas. Such is the deplorable condition of those, who have to govern savages without faith or principles of honor, never to rely on their word, and often to see no other means to avoid being victims of their perfidy, than their very facility in betraying their oath, from no motive but their natural fickleness. The Ottawas had just violated the faith they had so often sworn to us, new oaths had bound them to the Iroquois, and they became their enemies again on the spot.

Defeat of
the
Iroquois.

Scarcely had la Motte Cadillac ceased speaking when Onaské, Ouilamek, a Pouteouatami chief and an Algonquin named Mikinaé, having declared themselves chiefs of the expedition, they soon gathered a considerable body of warriors. Some Hurons at once hastened to warn the Iroquois, who at first took flight, but our braves were so expeditious that they overtook them. They fought fiercely on the banks of a river; but the Iroquois were at last forced to endeavor to escape by swimming. The victors brought back thirty scalps to Michillimakinac, and led in thirty-two prisoners with a booty of about five hundred beaver skins. Among the prisoners were many Hurons. These were handed over to their nation, who seemed affected by this consideration.¹

¹ Relation, &c., 1695-6, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 646.