

some wishing to use them to treat in private with the cantons, and the others to cause a rupture. At last Courtemanche overcame all obstacles, and embarked on a fleet of one hundred and forty-four canoes, thirty of which had to put back on account of sickness.<sup>1</sup>

1701.

Preliminary conference.

The Governor-General, as remarked, before giving any public audience, saw all the deputies in private; yet he had first held a preliminary conference, in which John le Blanc,<sup>2</sup> chief of the Ottawas du Sable, made his presents to Ononchio, spoke with much ability, and was loudly applauded by all present. Other Algonquin chiefs also spoke, and their words all concluded with a request for a reduction of the prices of goods, and for a market for their smaller peltries, as the beaver began to grow scarce.

The Rat then presented his Iroquois prisoners, asked why the cantons had not restored theirs, and said that their disobedience to the orders of their Father showed clearly that they were not acting in good faith. Onanguicé and Ouilamek, Pottawatamie chiefs, spoke after the Huron, and said, in the name of all the western tribes,<sup>4</sup> that on learning their Father's wishes, nothing could prevent their coming to him, not even the current rumor that diseases prevailed at Montreal. The Miami chief<sup>5</sup> spoke in the same tone, adding, the better to show his devotion to his Father Ononchio, that he had ransomed several Iroquois prisoners, to restore to him. He also presented a calumet for all the nations to smoke, he said, and declared that if he made peace with the Iroquois, it was not

<sup>1</sup> As to these French envoys, see de la Potherie, iv., p. 175, &c.

<sup>2</sup> He was so called, because his mother was as white as a Frenchwoman. Some Relations call him Talon. *Charlevoix*. De la Potherie gives Outoutaga, as his real name. He was son of a chief whom de Courcelle named Talon. Sheldon's Michigan, p. 235.

<sup>3</sup> Elloaouessen, chief of the Nan-

soakouatons; Hassaky, chief of the Ottawa Kiskakons; Chinguoussi, chief of the Ottawa Sinagos.

<sup>4</sup> Winnebagoes, Foxes, Maskoutins, Menomonees, Amikois and Pottawatamies.

<sup>5</sup> Chichikatalo, a noble-looking and good man. De la Potherie, iv., p. 207. He died soon after the treaty was signed, *ib.* p. 262.