

1705. the Marquis de Vaudreuil, unable to retain them any longer, dismissed them. They had made much account of their deference in waiting so long for justice from the Ottawas, and had pressed him strongly to declare against those Indians, who had first dared to violate the treaty of peace; but he showed them that he was not obliged by virtue of that treaty to join his arms to those of the aggrieved party, until he despaired of obtaining from the offenders a sufficient satisfaction; that he had not yet let the matter sleep, that he had already recovered all the prisoners, and expected that the aggressors would do the rest.<sup>1</sup>

This seemed to appease them, and they had already embarked for home, when the Sieur de Vincennes arrived from Michilmackinac. He told the Governor-General that he had come with the chiefs of the Ottawas, and that he had left them quite near the island, as they had begged him to go on in advance, to learn whether their Father would admit them to his presence. De Vaudreuil sent back to tell them that they might come, and recalled the Iroquois.

The Ottawas appeared in a state of humiliation, which at once proclaimed that they did not pretend to excuse their fault. "Father," said the chief who acted as spokesman, "we confess that in striking the Iroquois on thy mat, (that is to say, On thy territory,) our blows in some sort have been directed at thee; pardon mad men, who have no longer any counsel, because all their ancients are dead. Thou mayst take such vengeance on us as thou wilt; but if thou deign to spare us, thou shalt have no reason to repent. As long as we live, we shall not cease to show thee our gratitude, and from this moment we are ready to make those whom we have aggrieved, all the satisfaction thou shalt see fit to impose on us."

He then addressed the Iroquois who were present, and spoke in such a way as to touch them. After this the General had no difficulty in reconciling them. He ordered

---

<sup>1</sup> Conference, 16th Aug. 1705. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 767.