

1706.

couy; for although they had repaired that fault, still, as Indians never pardon very sincerely, they always mistrust the sincerity of a pardon from those they have aggrieved.

Indiscretion of two officers.

At this juncture, an officer named Bourgmont, arrived at Detroit to relieve the Sieur de Tonti, whom Mr. de la Motte Cadillac had left in his place as Commandant. The Indians, going to salute him, according to custom, asked him whether he did not bring any news to interest them, and he told them, with quite an angry air, that he knew none except that Mr. de la Motte would return the next spring well attended.

This reply, and still more the tone and manner in which it was made, set the Ottawas, in particular, thinking, especially as nothing was said of the Miamis. A word that escaped Mr. de Tonti when these very Indians expressed their regret at losing him, increased their disquiet. He told them that the earth must be overset, when he was recalled, to put a soldier in his place.¹ Their reflections on this completely persuaded them that some design was formed against them, and they made no secret of their fear.

Bourgmont, warned of it, assembled them, and, after telling them whatever he deemed most adapted to reassure them, he proposed to them to join the Miamis, Iroquois and Hurons in a war against the Sioux. He even flattered himself that he had gained them; but was mistaken and did not know the Indians. This speech and the proposition he had made only tended to confirm the impression that he was seeking to betray them by means of the Huron chief, a dangerous and crafty man; and they imagined that the latter was in concert with the Miamis, who were pretending a desire to march against the Sioux only to

¹ Bourgmont was only 2nd ensign, Tonti, captain. *Charlevoix*. He was sent from Quebec, Sept. 29, 1705, and reached Detroit, Jan'y 29, 1706. Sheldon's Michigan, p. 224. Bourgmont was apparently subsequently employed in Louisiana. An officer of the name, commandant of Fort Orleans on the Missouri, led an expedition to the Padoucas or Comanches in 1724. See Journal in Le Page du Pratz, *Histoire de la Louisiane*, iii., pp. 141-216. Dumont, *Memoires*, ii., pp. 74-8; Bossu, i., p. 161.