

fall on them during the march, when they were off their guard, and that the Iroquois were in the plot.

1706.

Their suspicions increasing daily by fresh tidings from all sides, which would have made no impression had not their minds been preoccupied, they resolved to forestall the Miamis. Yet the wisest wished first an explanation with the French; but the majority, urged on by a chief named Le Pesant, were of a contrary opinion. This chief reminded them of all their motives for distrusting the Commandant of Detroit, and they resolved to fall upon the Miamis on the first opportunity that offered, but to keep up the show of preparing for the Sioux war.

Vengeance
of the
Ottawas
on the
Miamis.

All being ready to start on that expedition, the Ottawa chiefs waited on Bourgmont and asked whether he had received no word from Quebec or Montreal. That officer seemed to pay no attention to what they said, which offended them greatly. A moment after, Bourgmont's dog, having bitten one of these Indians in the leg, the Indian beat the dog, on which the Commandant rushed upon him and gave him so many blows, that he died soon after; this violence drove the Ottawas to desperation. They set out the next day breathing naught but vengeance, convinced that it was necessary for their safety.

Only the chiefs, however, were yet informed of their design, all the rest supposing that they were to march against the Sioux: but when they had reached the woods they were informed, and directed not to harm the French or Hurons. They then retraced their steps, and some time after, meeting six Miamis, fell upon them and killed five. The sixth escaped within the fort, and on entering began to cry: "The Ottawas are killing us."

At this cry all the other Miamis, who were still in their village, also ran to the fort for a refuge, and the Commandant, seeing the Ottawas in pursuit, fired on them, and some were killed. The Recollect Father Constantin, chaplain of the fort, was walking in his garden, ignorant of all that was going on. Some Ottawas seized and bound him; but John le Blanc, one of their chiefs, who had taken part in the assembly at Montreal, where the general