

1707.

New  
troubles at  
Detroit.

Meanwhile the Miamis could not brook it, that the life of the Ottawa chief who had so injured them should be spared, and they incessantly demanded his head from the Commandant at Detroit. These Indians had their chief settlement on St. Joseph's River, where Father Aveneau, their missionary, by unalterable gentleness, and invincible patience, had succeeded in obtaining the same influence that his predecessor, Father Allouez, had gained over them.<sup>1</sup>

Misconduct  
of the  
Command-  
ant.

Mr. de la Motte Cadillac, who wished to govern these Indians after his own fashion, was loth to permit that any one should have more influence than himself in a town of that nation, more than a hundred leagues from Detroit, and he forced Father Aveneau to abandon his mission.<sup>2</sup> He soon had reason to repent it; the Miamis having no longer a missionary to control their impulses, renewed their clamor for vengeance on Le Pesant. He sought to divert them, summoned Le Pesant to Detroit after assuring him that he had nothing to fear, and in fact only required him to settle at Detroit with his family.

The Miamis, desperate on seeing themselves thus trifled with, killed three Frenchmen, and even committed some ravages in the vicinity of Detroit. La Motte Cadillac was even informed that they had plotted killing him and massacring all the French at Detroit; that some Iroquois and Hurons had entered the plot, and that they would have carried out their nefarious design had not a Wea Indian (Ouyatanon) betrayed them. This information, and the insult which he had just received, made him resolve to declare war on those Indians, and to appearance he made serious preparations for it; but all were much astonished to see his whole preparations end in making terms with them, dishonorable alike to himself and the French nation.

Dec. 22. Canada Doc., III. ii., pp. 728, 730, &c.

Pontchartrain, Nov. 9, 1708. Ferland, Cours d'Histoire, ii., p. 366.

<sup>1</sup> Father Claude Aveneau came from France in 1686. Carayon, Doc. Inédits, xiv., p. 117. He had been missionary to the Miamis for 18 years. Vaudreuil and Raudot to

He died in Illinois, Sept. 14, 1711.

Martin in Carayon.

<sup>2</sup> He placed a Recollect there. See Ferland, Cours d'Histoire, ii., p. 366.