

1712. but who were at the time off hunting. He summoned them to join him without delay; he then demolished all the houses' out of the walls of his fort, and adopted all other measures that time permitted, to meet the enemy's first onslaught. On the 13th of May, he learned that his allies were approaching, and he soon after descried them marching in fine order.

Du
Buisson's
prepara-
tions.

Seasonably
reinforced
by our
allies.

Among them were Ottawas commanded by Saguima, Hurons, Pottawatamies, Sacs, Menomonees, Illinois, Osages, Missourites, and each nation had its own flag. This little army halted at the village of the Hurons, who advised them not to encamp, but to push on straight to the French fort. "There is no time to lose," said they; "our Father is in danger; he loves us, he has never done us aught but good, we must defend him or perish at his feet. Saguima, do you see that smoke? They are three women of your village whom they are burning, and your wife one of them." These three women were indeed prisoners taken by the Foxes, but no more was known, and the Hurons spoke thus apparently only to rouse Saguima to vengeance. As soon as they had ceased speaking, a general cry arose that echoed through all the surrounding fields. The enemy gave an answering yell, and forty of them detached to watch our allies. These adventurers, by a species of bravado not uncommon among these savages, had stripped themselves quite naked, but had painted the whole body in such a manner as to render them hideous. They were fired upon and driven off.

When the allies approached the fort, the chiefs sent to ask the Commandant for permission to enter, and the gates were at once thrown open. Du Buisson gave them a welcome proportioned to the service they were rendering, and after all had taken their places around him, according to custom, the speaker, in the name of all, said to him:²

"Father, behold your children around you. For what you did last year to rescue them from the fire of the Foxes, they are bound to expose their lives for your ser-

¹ The church also. Ib. p. 317.

² Ib. p. 318-320.