

vice. We fear not death, we will even die cheerfully, if need be, for our Father and liberator; the only favor we ask, is, that you induce Ononthio, the Father of all the nations, to take care of our wives and children, and that you cover our bodies with a little grass, to keep off the flies. You see that we have left our villages and our families, to rush to your assistance; we have done it so promptly, that we had not time even to get munitions and provisions, so that we trust you will not let us suffer for want of either.”

1712.

Their
address to
du Buisson.

The Commandant thanked them briefly, and distributed among them provisions, lead, powder and tobacco. Then the old men went through the ranks, exhorting the young braves to do their duty well, and especially to obey their Father punctually. The Foxes quite calmly awaited the Confederates in their fort, which was only about musket-shot from the French fort. Here they were pretty well entrenched. However, they were scarcely invested on all sides, before the constant fire kept up on them, forced them to put themselves four or five feet in the ground.

The Foxes
are
besieged in
their fort.

Then the besiegers raised two rough scaffolds, twenty-five feet high, from which they galled the besieged so successfully, that as the latter no longer dared to venture out for water, and their provisions were soon consumed, they suffered greatly from hunger and thirst. In this extremity, borrowing strength from despair, they fought with a valor which long made victory doubtful; they even raised on their palisades a number of red blankets as flags, crying, at the top of their voices, that they had no Father but the English, who would infallibly come to their relief or avenge their death, and inviting such of our allies as wished to assure their lives, to adopt the same course.

Their
vigorous
defence.

The Pottawatomi chief replied, that if the ground must be stained with blood, as they seemed to mean by these signals, it should be with their own; that they had been very ill-advised to join the English, who durst not take the field against the French, who could make war only like foxes, who had destroyed all the tribes by poisoning them