

he would not listen to them till these three captives were restored to him. 1712.

Pemoussa in excuse alleged that did not depend entirely on him, and that he must go and impart his intentions to the sachems. He was allowed the rest of the day, and assured that the French would not fire till his return, provided, however, that no one left the fort. Two hours after, two Mascoutin chiefs and a Fox arrived, bearing a white flag, followed by the three women, whom they presented to the Commandant. They manifested great regret for having offended him, and begged him to give them all liberty to retire. Du Buisson replied, that they must not apply to him for this, as he had pledged his word to his allies, to leave them absolute masters, to do as they saw fit.

This reply was greatly applauded by the Indians, and the Great Chief of the Illinois² in the name of all said to the deputies: "Your past conduct, and the agreement you have made with the English, leave no room to doubt some evil intention on your part, in asking your Father leave to retire; no sooner would you leave the camp, than you would hasten to form new plots against him, and come to attack him at a time when we, perhaps, might be too far to come to his assistance. You have supposed us in ignorance of your arrangement with the English; your promise to establish them here, after having exterminated all the children of Ononthio; but you were mistaken. Know then, that our final resolve is to receive your surrender only at our discretion, and not to leave the spot till we force you to it; even our Father could not make us change, and in this alone would we disobey him. Better than he does, we know your evil heart, and do not intend to abandon him to your mercies. Return at once to your fort; we merely await that to renew the action."

Speech of
an Illinois
chief to the
deputies.

The deputies retired with this unexpected answer, and as soon as they had re-entered, the attack was resumed with fresh vigor. The defence was no less stubborn; the

¹ Ib. pp. 323-6.

² Makouaudeby.