


1712.  besieged discharged at once as many as three hundred arrows, tipped with lighted tinder, and in some cases with slow-matches, to set fire to the French fort; they did, really, burn several houses which were merely thatched, and to prevent the conflagration from spreading, all the rest had to be covered with bear and deer-skins, and a large supply of water collected.¹

The siege continues.

The besiegers discouraged.

This stubborn resistance at last wearied the confederates, they despaired of succeeding in their attempt, and pretended to fear that the French would stop supplying them with provisions. The French, seeing them on the point of retiring, as they would then be exposed to the rage of an irritated nation, already talked of embarking for Michilimackinac, and du Buisson was on the point of being obliged to flee before enemies whom he had reduced to the last extremity, and whom he had seen two days before at his knees, begging him to be satisfied with treating them as his slaves.

The commandant rallies them.

To regain the Indian chiefs, he had to strip himself of all he had, and when he supposed that he had won each one to his side by his largesses, he called the council. He there began to complain that they wished to abandon him in the very height of the peril, after leading him into it: he then expressed his astonishment that so many brave men renounced a certain victory that would cover them with glory. Some chiefs seemed surprised at his words, and interrupted him to protest that they held to their resolution to shed the last drop of their blood, sooner than leave the work incomplete; that they could not understand what could have aroused the unfounded suspicions he seemed to entertain.²

All the others made the same protestation; they again sang the war-song, and each resuming his post, the besieged saw that they could look for safety only on the harsh conditions imposed upon them. There were, as stated, Sacs among the Confederates. There were also

¹ Two periaguas were filled with water. Ib. p. 327. ² Ib. pp. 326-330