

among the enemy, because that nation, as elsewhere remarked, is divided, as it were, into two factions, one attached to the Foxes, and the other to the Pottawatomies. The Sacs, shut up with the Foxes, almost all deserted, and from them it was ascertained that the besieged were at the last extremity: that they suffered more from hunger and thirst, than from the fire of the besiegers; that they had already lost eighty men,¹ and that their fort was full of dead bodies, which caused a horrible infection.

All this was strictly true, and soon after the enemy asked to parley. It was supposed that they would now surrender at discretion, and they were permitted to send deputies. Two Outagami chiefs, Pemoussa and another,² at once came with several prisoners, and in a garb that seemed to them calculated to touch the confederates. They said that for themselves, they durst not flatter themselves that their lives would be spared, but they earnestly begged quarter for their old men, women and children. "Remember," they added, "that you are our grand-nephews; it is your own blood you seem so eagerly to thirst for; would it not be more honorable to spare it, and more profitable to hold us as slaves."

Pity does not easily enter an Indian heart, and the long resistance of the enemy, had irritated the besiegers. They persisted in demanding that the Foxes and their allies should surrender at discretion. Some even proposed to du Buisson to massacre the deputies; but he angrily replied, that they must be drunk, to make him such a proposal; that these two men had come on his word; given only by their own consent, and that he would never permit the least outrage to be done them in his fort.

They replied, that these two envoys were the authors of all the trouble, and that, having so often used perfidy themselves, they did not deserve that others should be so

1712.

Another
deputation
of the
besieged.

The Com-
mandant
prevents
them from
massacring
the
deputies.

¹ Sixty to eighty women and children by hunger and thirst. *Ib.* p. 329.

² Allamima. *Ib.* p. 330. Also two Mascoutin chiefs, Kuit and Ouabimantou.