

for me; they were arrayed as for a ceremony, carefully *mataché*,—that is to say, the whole body painted with different colors,³⁶—with wildcats' tails at the places where the wings of Mercury are represented; with *calumet* in hand, and upon the body little bells, which from afar announced their coming. I answered them that I was not like the French Chiefs, who command warriors, and who come with *booty* to make them presents; that I had come only to make them know the *great spirit*, whom they did not know; and that I had brought only the things necessary for this purpose. I told them that I would, nevertheless, accept their *calumet* on the day when some pirogue should be sent for me; this was to put them off to the Greek *Calends*; they waved the *calumet* before my face, and returned to carry my answer. Two days afterward, the Chiefs came to make the same inquiry—adding that it was without design that they wished to dance the *calumet* in my presence; *without design* signifies among them that they are making a present without any anticipation of return. I had been informed of all this; I knew that the hope of gain was making them very attentive, and that when the Savage gives, even *without design*, double must be returned to him, or he will probably be displeased; I therefore made them the same answer that I had given to the deputies. Finally they returned again to the charge, in order to ask if I would at least be willing that their young men should come to dance in my village, *without design*, the *reconnoiter* dance (this is the one they dance when they send to reconnoiter the enemy). I answered that it would not trouble me, that their