

emboldened by impunity, the savages increased their demands, so that a total cessation of trade was likely to ensue, and bickering arose between the plunderers and the plundered. In the autumn of seventeen hundred and twenty-four, a hot-headed young Canadian trader refused to pay the customary tribute, and severely wounded a Saque who attempted to take it forcibly. He was instantly shot dead and scalped, and his boat was pillaged. Some accounts say, that his men were killed too, but this part of the story, though probable, is not certain. As no notice of the affair was taken that winter by the authorities commissioned by the Grand Monarque, the insolence of the Sauks increased greatly, and they imagined in their ignorance that the French stood in fear of them. But in this they reckoned without their host, or rather without Jean St. Denis Moran.

The Sieur Moran, a man of a decided and energetic character, held an office in the French Indian Department. He was, moreover, an old campaigner and had been at Friedlingen and Malplaquet. When tidings of what had happened were communicated to him at Quebec, his mustacios twisted upward for very anger, and he swore, *Sachristie!* and *Mort de sa vie!* that the Saques should repent their presumption. In order to the fulfillment of this laudable vow, he demanded of the commanding officer at Quebec that three hundred regulars should be placed at his disposal, and the request was granted.\* With these troops he proceeded to Michilmacinac, where he remained till the first of October, to mature his plans.

Here he caused eight or ten Mackinaw boats to be constructed. For fear that some of our readers may not know what a Mackinaw boat is, we will try to inform him. It is a large, strong built, flat bottomed boat, pointed at both ends, and pe-

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\*While we feel disposed to give some credit to this narrative, or that part of it relating to the causes and movements of Marin against the Foxes—relying upon it, as a tradition, so far as it may be corroborated by other sources of information, and so far as it may accord with probability, yet it is quite apparent that the writer has drawn somewhat upon his imagination for supposed facts with which to connect the several parts of the story. The date assigned to the expedition, the Christian name of Marin, his military services in the Low Countries, the tidings of the Indian exactions reaching him at Quebec, and there securing 300 regulars with whom to chastise the insolent savages, must, we think, be regarded of this character.