

would not declare themselves, I was going to set about holding their trial; and that the next day I would make known to them what the French and I had resolved.

It is well, Monsieur, that you should know that I only observed all these formalities to see whether they would do us the same justice which they practice among themselves; for I have various examples that in such cases, when the tribe of those who have killed does not wish to have war with the one that has been offended, the nearest relatives of the murderers themselves kill them—that is, a man for a man.

On the 29th, I assembled a part of the French who were here; and, after having had read to them the examinations and answers of the accused, the certainty which we had that they were all three guilty, by their own avowal, decided us to put them all three to death. But, as the French who had remained at Kiaonan to pass the winter there wrote to the Reverend Father Enialran and myself, begging us to treat this affair with all the mildness possible,—because the savages murmured that, if all the accused were put to death, they would revenge themselves upon the French,—I made known to these gentlemen that, this being an unprecedented affair, I believed it was expedient, for the safety of all their companions who were wintering at Lake Superior, to put to death only two. I told them that, in case the savages wished to make trouble, one man more would not greatly weaken their own party, whereas the death of this third savage might have grievous consequences; on the contrary, by only killing man for man, the savages would have nothing to say, since that is their own practice. M. de la Tour, a man of the Fathers, who has served a long time, supported by cogent reasons the opinion I had expressed, which gave all those whom I had called to the council reason for releasing the third man. It was resolved that two of them, the Folavoine and the elder of the two brothers, should be shot, and that the younger should hold his life by your favor, Monsieur. After this I returned with Messieurs Boisguillot, Péré, de Repentigny, de Manthet, de la Ferté, and Macons, to Le Brochet's cabin, where were present all the elders of the Outaouats of Sable, Outaouats Sinagaux, Kiskacons, Sauteurs, Mississagués,