

father and three of his children. The other tribes did not speak.

These different opinions led me to answer the two former speakers that, if these were prisoners of war, I would be pleased to spare their lives; but that being assassins they must die, to set an example for those who might have similar designs, and by this fear prevent them from so readily resorting to assassination, especially that of Frenchmen. I said that they know very well that I love men, but that I do not fear them enough to be kept from executing the orders received from you to put to death whomsoever kills us; that, if I did not do so, when you learned that, although I had in my power those who assassinated your first children, I did not punish them, you would believe it was on account of my fearing men that I had been restrained. Then, to teach me to be afraid, I would no sooner have arrived than you would inflict on me the same treatment that their crime deserved. I said, moreover, that I was not the author of their death, but that all the elders were. I said: "I say thus on account of the sentiments which you have insinuated into the youth, that to kill the French was not an affair of such great moment as one imagined, since a slave or a package of beaver could make sufficient amends; and till now there has been no more grievous result for those who had committed assassinations. But if you had from the beginning made known to the young men that in case they committed any evil deed the tribe would abandon them, they would have been better advised, and the Frenchmen would still be alive." After this I left the council, and informed the Reverend Fathers, so that they might baptise those two wretched men, which they did. An hour afterward, I put myself at the head of 42 Frenchmen, and, in sight of more than 400 men, and 200 steps from their fort, I had their heads broken.

The impossibility of guarding them until spring to be sent to you, Monsieur, made me hasten their death, being persuaded that on such an occasion a prompt execution is necessary to calm everything, and to avoid giving opportunity to those interested to take measures for attempting to rescue the prisoners.