

When *Sieur Péré* arrested them, those who had committed the murder confessed; and when asked what they had done with the merchandise, they answered that it was almost all hidden. He had himself conducted to the hiding-places, and was greatly surprised, as were the Frenchmen with him, to see that it was in twelve or fifteen different places; and that through their carelessness the bales, the tobacco, and the powder were ruined, as they had put them in the pine woods, under roots that were soaked in water on account of ten or twelve days of continual rain, which had inundated all the land, because snow and freezing weather had come unexpectedly soon. They had, therefore, the utmost difficulty in withdrawing the goods. They next went to look for the bodies, and tried, but unsuccessfully, to recover them, as the wretches had thrown them into loose soil, and in a hole which they had made; and, not even satisfied with this, had put branches across them to prevent them from floating when the country is under water in spring. By this precaution they hoped that the French, finding no indications that the missing men had been killed, would believe that they had been drowned by capsizing—which report they had in fact circulated, saying that they had found on the other side of the portage,¹ in the lake, a demolished boat, which they believed to be the property of Frenchmen.

The merchandise recovered, *Sieur Péré* had it brought to the place where all the French were, both those who were to spend the winter at *Kiaonan*, and who knew nothing of the death of *Jacques Le Maire* and *Colin Berthot* when *Sieur Péré* arrived, and the ten who belonged to his detachment. A conference was held regarding the measures which they ought to take to avoid the total loss of the wares, and it was concluded to sell them to the highest bidder. This brought 1,100 livres Paris, to be paid in beaver to *M. de Lachesnaye*, to whom I send the names of those indebted for the goods.²

¹An allusion to the portage route across *Keweenaw Point*, which is now followed by the *Portage river ship-canal*.—Ed.

²The livre was a French money of account, in value somewhat less than the modern franc; that of *Tours* was worth 20 sous, that of *Paris* 25 sous.

Charles Aubert de la Chesnaye was one of the most wealthy, influ-