

of Beaver-skins; and, sitting down, cried out to him, "We submit to thy wishes, and entreat thee by this Beaver to forget our foolish acts. If thou art not content with this atonement, attack us; we will suffer death, for we are willing to atone with our blood for the fault that our nation has committed." All these acts of submission had no other object than to procure ammunition and weapons for the Peltries, foreseeing that he would refuse these supplies to them. Perrot made them understand that he had come to their village only to hear them; that, if they repented of their inconsiderate demands, he would pardon them; that, although they might escape from one hand, he would hold them tightly with the other; that he was holding them by no more than one finger, but that, if they would bestir themselves a little, he would take them by the arms and gradually bring them into a safe place where they could dwell in peace.

All the Chiefs begged him, one after another, to receive them under his protection, imploring him to give them ammunition for their Peltries so that they could kill game to make soup for their children. He would not grant them more than a small amount. A war-Chief, who carried in his hand a dagger, thought that Perrot's Clerk had not given him enough powder, and spoke so fiercely to him that the clerk yielded all he asked. Perrot was greatly irritated against them, and undertook to have everything taken back to the canoes; but after some explanation he recognized that the Chief had no bad intention. Those peoples are so brutal that persons who do not understand them suppose that they are always full of anger when they are speaking.

Their trading being ended, the Frenchmen reëmbarked; they did so very opportunely, for the desperate frame of mind in which the Outagamis found themselves the next day, at tidings of the defeat of their people by the Nadouaissieux, would have made them forget the alliance which they had just renewed; in the sequel, they made that feeling sufficiently evident. The French arrived at a place a little below the village of the Maskoutechs, where they encamped. The Chiefs, accompanied by their families, came to receive Perrot on the bank of their river; they entreated him to enter a cabin; and by a package of Beaver-