

that they should turn their weapons against the Iroquois—who, moreover, were delighted that these peoples should be thus divided among themselves, for whatever discord could be aroused among them was the only way by which their plans could be made to fail. Perrot sent for the Chief of the Miamis; he made him believe that he had just received a letter which informed him that the Maskoutechs—jealous at seeing themselves obliged, by way of satisfaction, to join their war-club to that of their Allies—had won over the Outagamis, and that they would by common consent attack the Miamis while on the general march against the Nadouaissieux. The Chief, believing Perrot's statement, did not fail to break up the band of his warriors, and sent them the next day to hunt buffalo; they also held a war-feast, at which they swore the ruin of the Maskoutechs. The Outagamis, who had displayed more steadfast courage than did the other Allies, finding that they were advanced into the enemy's country, consulted the medicine-men to ascertain whether they were secure. Those Jugglers delivered their Oracles, which were that the Spirits had showed them that the Sauteurs and the Nadouaissieux were assembling to march against them. Whether the devil had really spoken to them (as is believed in all Canada), or they were seized with fear at finding themselves alone—without assistance—however that might be, they built a Fort, and sent their Chiefs and two warriors to Perrot, begging that he would go among the Nadouaissieux to check their advance, and thus enable the Outagamis, with their families, to take refuge in their own village.

The Miamis would actually have engaged in battle with the Maskoutechs, if the Frenchman had not dissuaded their Chief from doing so. They received the Outagami Chief with all possible honors; he told them that their people were dead. Perrot asked him how many the dead were. He replied: "I do not know anything positively; but I believe that they all are dead, for our Diviners saw the Nadouaissieux assemble together in order to come against us; they are very numerous, and we are greatly troubled on account of our women and children, who are with us. The old men have sent me to thee, to beg thee to deliver us from the danger into which we have too blindly