

to us; and as it is the Indian custom to accompany their words with a present proportioned to the affair discussed, he gave them fifty pounds of powder and as many of bullets, six guns, ten hatchets, twelve brasses of tobacco, and a steel calumet.

On the 1st of December, the Mantantons invited Mr. Le Sueur to a great feast; four of their cabins had been thrown into one, in which there were a hundred men seated around, each with his platter before him. After the repast Oucantapai, their chief, made them all smoke successively the steel calumet which had been presented to them. Then he made a present to Mr. Le Sueur of a slave and a sack of wild rice; and, pointing to his people, said: "Behold the remnants of that great village which thou didst formerly behold so numerous; all the others have been slain in war, and the few men thou seest in this cabin accept the present that thou makest them, and are resolved to obey that great chief of all the nations of whom thou hast spoken to us. Thou must therefore no longer regard us as Scioux, but as Frenchmen; and, instead of saying that the Scioux are wretches who have no sense and are fit only to plunder and rob the French, thou wilt say: 'My brothers are unhappy men who have no sense; we must try and get them some. They rob us, but to prevent them I will take care that they do not lack iron—that is to say all kinds of goods.' If thou dost this, I assure thee that in a short time the Mantantons will become French and will no longer have the vices with which thou reproachest them." Having finished this harangue he covered his head with his robe, the others imitated him; they wept for their comrades slain in war, and chanted a farewell to their country, in so mournful a tone that one could scarcely help sharing their grief. Then Oucantapai made them smoke again, and distributed among them presents that had been given to them, and said that he was going to the Mendeouacantons to inform them of the resolution and to invite them to do the same.

On the 12th three Mendeouacanton chiefs and a number of Indians of the same village arrived at the fort, and the next day made a kind of satisfaction, to the value of a thousand livres, for the plunder that they had committed on the French. They brought 400 pounds of beaver-skins; and promised that in