

savages, for every one knew that they always mix the false with the true in any news they undertook to report."

But an opportunity was providentially afforded us of learning all we wished to know, without incurring any risk. Merasilla, an Outawa-Sinago, who was going to Detroit with the people of Toupikanich to avenge the death of his brother, who was killed the day after he was made chief, and by this means restore the name of Kischkouch, when he heard that we intended to go to Michilimackinac, begged of us to ask the savages to release him, that he might accompany us thither. The savages granted our request, but reproached him with having no love for his brother. But, nothing daunted, he requested an interview with M. Menard and myself.

The parley took place the next morning, which happened to be St. Ignace's day, after mass had been said for that saint. All the French who wished were permitted to be present. No one could have spoken in a more engaging, sensible manner, than did Merasilla. He said there really was cause to fear for us, and for the French at Michilimackinac; but he hoped to be able to relieve all the French from any trouble they might be in. He requested us to give him a flag, and a letter to the French; these would be sufficient evidence to them that he had not come to imbrue his hands in their blood. He said, if he found the French at Michilimackinac still alive, and desirous to revenge themselves upon their enemies, if all things were favorable to such an attempt, he would return immediately with the letter which the French would undoubtedly send in answer to ours. If he found that the French had already been massacred, without allowing the savages there to suspect that he had seen us, he would come with the utmost dispatch and warn us, that we might retire to a place of safety; and if there were any immediate danger of an attack upon us, he would aid us in defending ourselves.

You may judge how gladly his proposition was received, though it is always said that a man risks his life, if he trusts to the fidelity of a savage. But we made him such promises, in our own name and in yours, that the hope of reward was to him a very strong inducement to keep his word. We told him that,