

as soon as he returned, we would recompense him abundantly, whether the condition of things were good or bad, and that we would inform you of the essential service he had rendered us, and you would never forget it.

To give us every possible assurance of his fidelity, Merasilla left his whole family with us as hostages; and, with only three savages, departed in a canoe for Michilimackinac. He executed his commission with the utmost secrecy. He said nothing to the savages, nor to the French, except to the one to whom he gave the letter, until after he was fully informed of the state of affairs. All the French at Michilimackinac greatly admired his judicious conduct. On his return to the mission, each of the Frenchmen there made him a present to the value of four beavers; for which it is but just that the king should remunerate us, as it is in his service that we are exposed to so many dangers. You will greatly oblige all of us, myself in particular, if you will also recompense him liberally. He will then feel, that to render good service to the French who are under your orders, and especially to a missionary, is a matter of some importance.

Three Frenchmen returned with Merasilla from Michilimackinac, who informed us it was not without reason that we had been told that we risked much in attempting to go to Michilimackinac. For eight days the occupants of that post had been as if the tomahawk were suspended over their heads. Two of the principal women in the village, who had always until then appeared very friendly to the French, went weeping from hut to hut, demanding the death of the French who had killed their brother. Three or four times the French had been obliged to make presents to the Indians, who considered these gifts as a kind of contribution, or honest plunder. They had also been obliged to sell goods to the savages at their own price. But, since the last news from Detroit, by which it appeared that the French there had not shared in the second attack made on the Outawas, affairs at Michilimackinac had been more quiet.

The day before the Frenchmen left Michilimackinac to come to us, all the Outawas in the village, about one hundred and sixty in number, including those who came to invite them,