

came here by your orders, in the midst of so many dangers, it seems only right that some provision should have been made for my journey, and I hope hereafter this subject may receive your attention. Still, I am very glad to be here, and hope my presence will be of service to the French.

I believe, if M. Menard and myself had arrived here before the departure of the Indians for Detroit, we might have prevented their going, by informing them of some things we heard by the way; but this was not permitted. The old men in council have condemned the departure of their tribe, but say they could not restrain the young men, after they had learned the treason of the Hurons.<sup>1</sup> Besides, they went to aid their relatives, by their tomahawks and with provisions. Before we left St. Ignace, Toupikanich informed us that a party of a hundred men would soon arrive, on their way to Detroit; but they did not appear while we remained there. Therefore M. la Motte ought not to find fault because we did not stop them.

About that time, a party of warriors were to leave Michilimackinac, and, having engaged the Sacs and Foxes to join them, intended to attack the Miamis on the river St. Joseph. M. Arnaud induced them to wait until our arrival; and we were enabled entirely to divert them from their object. To effect this, we gave them the necklace<sup>2</sup> you had sent to settle their difficulty with Detroit, and to prevent their going thither. This necklace, with tobacco, had the effect to stop Onaské and Koutaouiliboe, who were living beyond the precincts of the village—and through their influence the whole project was easily overthrown. Several canoes have indeed departed since, but there was not a sufficiently large number of savages to make a successful attack.

I asked the savages if I could send a canoe manned with Frenchmen to the river St. Joseph, with any degree of safety?

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<sup>1</sup>Probably a reference to the same treacherous plot of the Hurons which Perrot thus mentions (*Mémoire*, p. 146): "Since the Detroit post was established, have not the Hurons conspired to cut the throats of the Frenchmen who were keeping garrison there, under command of Monsieur de la Motte? and, if their design was foiled, it was only by vigilant guard on the part of the French."—Ed.

<sup>2</sup>Or collar, of "porcelain" (wampum).—Ed.