

precaution which were necessary, despising all the advice given him by the chiefs and his own officers. When he arrived near the fort of the Miamis, which he expected to take without opposition,—there being but sixty warriors of the Miamis, and his force amounting to four hundred men,—he found the Miamis ready to defend themselves. They fired on the advancing army, wounding many persons, and obliging La Motte to retreat to some distance from the intrenchment. At this juncture the Miamis raised a white flag, that M. la Motte had given them the previous year, which rendered it necessary for him to hold a council with them.

The principal chief of the Miamis who came to the council reproached La Motte for having broken his word, the forty days which he had given them not having expired. La Motte replied that he had a right to attack them, as they had failed to bring back the little Outawa who was among them, within fifteen days, as they had promised. He demanded that this little Outawa should now be restored, and that they should also give him three captives to replace the dead. They not only complied with these requisitions, but they also promised him that they would deliver up the murderers within six weeks, if possible; but if not, they would come after their harvest and settle at Detroit. As a pledge of their truthfulness, they gave three of their chiefs into the custody of the French as hostages. They also presented to M. la Motte fifty packs of different kinds of furs, for himself and for the troops and allies. In this affray there were seven Frenchmen wounded and four savages killed and two wounded.

After his return to Detroit, M. la Motte, not having heard from the Miamis, sent a canoe with four Frenchmen to their camp. The Miamis kept two of the Frenchmen, and sent back two of their own men instead, to signify to M. la Motte that they would do as they had promised; but this is improbable, as they have abandoned their fort. If they come to Detroit, it will be very difficult for them to agree with the Outawas, as no one can bring about a good understanding between all the different nations which La Motte has intended to assemble here. There are ancient enmities that will always prevail over all he can