

fort, not daring to enter yours, on account of the Ottagamies and Mascoutins, who surround you. Makisabie, war chief of the Pottawatamies, and his brother, Tehamasimon, are at the head, and desire to council with you."

I requested Mr. De Vincennes to meet them, and he recognized at once the four Indians. He returned an hour after to render me an account of the interview, and told me, on the part of Makisabie, that six hundred men would soon arrive to aid me, and to eat those miserable nations who had troubled all the country. That it was necessary to keep myself on my guard against the Ottagamies and Mascoutins, who might learn the expected arrival of assistance.

I requested Mr. De Vincennes to return to the Huron fort, and to ascertain from Makisabie if it would not be satisfactory to his people to content ourselves with driving away the Mascoutins and the Ottagamies, and compelling them to return to their former villages, which, Sir, was your intention. But this could not be done for the Hurons were much too irritated. This great affair had been too well concerted during the whole autumn and winter with all the nations. Mr. De Vincennes, perceiving it would only irritate the Hurons to speak of accommodation, dropped the subject, and the more readily, as they said these wicked men never kept their words. Nothing else could be done, but to be silent, and to put the best face upon the affair, while we fought with them against our common enemies. The Hurons even reproached us with being tired of living, as we knew the bad intentions of the Ottagamies and Mascoutins. They said it was absolutely necessary to destroy them, and to extinguish their fire, and it was your intention they should perish. They added that they knew your views on this subject at Montreal.

Mr. De Vincennes returned and told me it was useless to speak of any accommodation. And in truth, I well knew there was great danger in having so many nations around us of whose good intentions we were not certain. I then closed the gates of the fort and divided my few Frenchmen into four brigades, each having its brigadier. I inspected their arms and ammunition, and assigned them their stations on the bastions. I put