

bled upon the parade ground of my fort, and spoke to me as follows: "My Father, I speak to you on the part of all the nations, your children, who are before you. What you did last year in drawing their flesh from the fire, which the Ottagamies were about to roast and eat, well merits that we should bring you our bodies to make you the master of them, and to do all you wish. We do not fear death whenever it is necessary to die for you. We have only to request that you would pray the Father of all Nations to have pity on our women, and our children, in case we should lose our lives with you. We beg you to throw a blade of grass upon our bones to protect them from the flies. You see, my father, that we have abandoned our villages, our women and our children, to hasten as soon as possible to join you. We hope that you will have pity on us, and that you will give us something to eat, and a little tobacco to smoke. We have come from a distance, and are destitute of everything; we hope you will give us powder and balls to fight with you. We don't make a great speech. We perceive that we fatigue you and your people by the ardour which you show for the fight." I immediately answered them, and briefly: "I thank you, my children; the determination you have taken, to offer to die with us, is very agreeable to me, and causes me much pleasure. I recognize you as the true children of the Governor General, and I shall not fail to render him an account of all you have done for me today. You need not doubt, that when any question respecting your interest arises, he will regard it favorably. I receive orders from him every day, to watch continually for the preservation of his children. With regard to your necessities, I know you want everything. The fire which has just taken place, is unlucky for you, as well as for me. I will do all I can to provide you with what you want. I beg you to live in peace, union, and good intelligence together, as well among your different nations as with the French people. This will be the best means of enabling us to defeat our common enemies. Take courage, then; inspect and repair your war clubs, your bows and arrows, and especially your guns. I shall supply you with powder and ball immediately, and then will attack our enemies. This is all I have to say to you."