

All the Indians uttered a cry of joy and of thanks, and said: "Our enemies are dead from the present moment. The heavens begin to grow clear, and the Master of Life has pity on us." All the old men made harangues through the fort, to encourage the warriors, telling them to listen to my words, and strictly to obey all my orders. I distributed among them immediately a quantity of balls and powder; and then we all raised the war cry. The very earth trembled. The enemy, who were not more than a pistol shot distant, raised also their war cry, at the same time. The guns were immediately discharged on both sides, and the balls flew like hail.

We had to do as our Indians did, in order to encourage them. The powder and balls that you had the goodness to send us, Sir, the past autumn, did not last long. I was obliged to have recourse to three barrels, that Mr. de Lamothe left with a certain Roy to sell, not leaving me a single grain when he went away, for the defence of the fort, in case of attack. All mine was exhausted, as well as a quantity which I had been obliged to purchase of some of the French people.

I held the Ottagamies and the Mascoutins in a state of siege during nineteen days, wearing them out by a continual fire, night and day. In order to avoid our fires, they were obliged to dig holes four or five feet deep in the ground, and to shelter themselves there. I had erected two large scaffolds, twenty feet high, the better to fire into their villages. They could not go out for water, and they were exhausted by hunger and thirst. I had from four to five hundred men, who blockaded their village night and day, so that no one could issue to seek assistance. All our Indians went and hid themselves at the edge of the woods, whence they continually returned with prisoners, who came to join their people, not knowing they were besieged. Their sport was to shoot them, or to fire arrows at them and then burn them.

The enemy that I had kept besieged, thinking to intimidate me, and by this means to have the field left open to them, covered the palisades with scarlet blankets and then halloed to me that they wished the earth was all covered with blood; these red blankets were the mark of it; they hoisted twelve red blankets