

not speak many words until our old men can council together, if you grant us those two days, that I have asked of you."

I answered him thus: "If your hearts were properly moved, and if you truly considered the Governor at Montreal as your father, you would have begun by bringing with you the three women whom you hold as prisoners; not having done so, I believe your hearts are yet bad. If you expect me to listen to you, begin by bringing them here. This is all I have to say." All the chiefs who were with me, exclaimed with a high voice, "My father, after what you have just said, we have nothing to answer to this ambassador. Let him obey you, if he wishes to live." The ambassador answered, "I am only a child. I shall return to my village to render an account of what you have said, to our old men."

Thus finished the council. I gave him three or four Frenchmen to re-conduct him, assuring him that we would not fire upon his village during the day, on condition, however, that no one should leave it to seek water; and that if they did so, the truce would be at an end, and we should fire upon them.

Two hours after, three chiefs, two of them Mascoutins, and the third an Ottagamie, came bearing a flag, and bringing with them the three women. I made them enter the same place, where the others were stationed, and where all our chiefs were again assembled. The three messengers spoke as follows: "My father, here are these three pieces of flesh that you ask of us. We would not eat them, thinking you would call us to an account for it. Do what you please with them. You are the master. Now, we Mascoutins and Ottagamies request, that you would cause all the nations, who are with you, to retire, in order that we may freely seek provisions for our women and our children. Many die every day of hunger. All our village regret that we have displeased you. If you are as good a father as all your children, who are around you, say you are, you will not refuse the favor we ask of you."

As I had now the three women, whom I sought, I did not care any longer to keep fair with them, and I therefore answered, "If you had eaten my flesh, which you have now brought me, you would not have been living at this moment.