

ened the French so much, that they thought everything was lost. I re-assured them, telling them that this was nothing, and that we must find a remedy as soon as possible. "Come, then," said I, "take courage; let us take off the thatch from the houses, and let us cover them with bear-skins and deer-skins; our Indians will help us." I then directed them to bring in two large wooden pirogues which I had filled with water and provided Badrouilles ["mops"] at the end of rods, to extinguish the fire, when it should break out any where, and hooks to pull out the arrows. There were four or five Frenchmen, who were wounded. I fell into another embarrassment much greater than this. My Indians became discouraged, and wished to go away, a part of them saying that they should never conquer those nations. That they knew them well, and that they were braver than any other people; and besides, I could no longer furnish them with provisions.

This inconstancy ought to teach us how dangerous it is, to leave a post so distant as this without troops. I then saw myself on the point of being abandoned, and left a prey to our enemies, who would not have granted us any quarter, and the English would have triumphed.

The French were so frightened, that they told me they saw clearly, it was necessary we should retire as quickly as possible, to Michilimacinae. I said to them, "What are you thinking of? Is it possible you can entertain such sentiments? What! abandon a post in such a cowardly manner? Dismiss such thoughts, my friends, from your minds; do things appear so bad? You ought to know that if you abandon me, the Governor General would follow you every where, to punish you for your cowardice. What the Indians have just said ought not to frighten you. I am going to speak to all the chiefs in private, and inspire them with new courage. Therefore change your views, and let me act, and you will see that everything will go well." They answered me, that they did not think of retiring without my consent, nor without me at their head; believing that we could not hold the place, if our Indians should abandon us. They begged me to pardon them, and assured me they would do all I wished. And truly, I was afterward very well contented with them. They did their duty like brave people.