

I was four days and four nights, without taking any repose, and without eating or drinking, striving all the time to secure to my interest all the young war chiefs, in order to keep the warriors firm, and to encourage them, so that they would not quit us, until our enemies were defeated. To succeed in this object, I stripped myself of all I had, making presents to one and another. You know, Sir, that with the Indians one must not be mean. I flatter myself that you will have the goodness to approve all these expenditures, which for me are immense, and for the King, of no consequence; for otherwise, I should be very much to be pitied, having a large family which occasions me great expense at Quebec.

Having gained all the Indians in private, I held a general council, to which I called all the nations, and said to them: "What, my children! when you are just on the point of destroying these wicked nations, do you think of retreating shamefully, after having so well begun? Could you lift up your heads again? You would be overwhelmed with confusion. All the other nations would say, are these the brave warriors, who fled so ignominiously, after having abandoned the French? Be not troubled, take courage, we will endeavor yet to find a few provisions. The Hurons and the Ottowas, your brothers, offer you some. I will do all I can to comfort you and to aid you. Don't you see that our enemies can hardly preserve their position? Hunger and thirst overpower them. We shall quickly render ourselves masters of their bodies. Will it not be very pleasant, after such a result, when you visit Montreal to receive there the thanks and the friendship of the father of all nations, who will thank you for having risked your lives with me? For you cannot doubt, that in the report I shall make to him, I shall render justice to each of you, for all you will have done. You must also be aware, that to defeat these two nations, is to give that life and peace to your women and children, which they have not yet enjoyed."

The young war chiefs, whom I had gained, did not give me time to finish, but said to me, "My father, allow us to interrupt you; we believe there is some liar, who has told you falsehoods. We assure you, that we all love you too much, to abandon you,