

“My father, I speak to you, and to all the nations who are before you. I come to you to demand life. It is no longer ours. You are the master of it. All the nations have abandoned us. I bring you my flesh in the seven slaves, whom I put at your feet. But do not believe I am afraid to die. It is the life of our women, and our children, that I ask of you. I beg you to allow the sun to shine, let the sky be clear, that we can see the day, and that hereafter, our affairs may be prosperous. Here are six belts, that we give you, which bind us to you like your true slaves. Untie them, we beg you, to show that you give us life. Recollect, ye nations, that you are our great nephews; tell us something, I pray you, which can give pleasure on our return to our village.”

I left it to our Indians to answer these ambassadors. They were, however, so much enraged against them, that they would not give them any answer. Eight or ten of them asked permission to speak to me in private. “My father, we come to ask liberty of you to break the heads of those four great chiefs. They are the men who prevent our enemies from surrendering at discretion. When these shall be no longer at their head, they will find themselves much embarrassed, and will surrender.”

I told them they must be drunk to make me such a proposition. “Recollect, that they came here upon my word, and you have given me yours. We must act with good faith, and if such a thing were done, how could you trust one another? Besides if I acquiesced in this proposition, the Governor General would never pardon me. Dismiss it, therefore, from your thoughts. They must return peaceably. You see clearly that they cannot avoid us, since you resolved not to give them quarter.” They confessed I was right, and that they were foolish. We dismissed the ambassadors in all safety, without, however, giving them any further answer. These poor wretches well knew there was no longer any hope for them.

I confess, Sir, that I was touched with compassion, at their misfortunes; but as war and pity do not well agree together, and particularly, as I understood that they were paid by the English for our destruction, I abandoned them to their unfortunate fate; indeed, I hastened to have this tragedy finished,