

1712: ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE SIEGE OF DETROIT.

[Translated from *Collection de Manuscrits relatifs à la Nouvelle-France* (Quebec, 1883), pp. 622-625; authorship ascribed to Gaspard Chaussegros de Léry, chief engineer of Canada.]

About the month of August, the Iroquois chiefs came down to Quebec, and were regaled at the palace by Monsieur d'Aigremont. A few days afterward, we were informed of the defeat of the Renards at Detroit, but we did not learn the details of the affair until long afterward. It is well to know that when Monsieur de Lamotte was at Detroit, wishing to attract the trade of all the nations to his post, he sent collars to the Mascoutins and Quiyquapous, to invite them to form a village there, and offered them a location for it. They accepted this proposal, and, having come thither to the number of forty families erected a fort there in the place assigned them. As that nation [the Renards] is both feared and hated by the other tribes, on account of its people's arrogance, the others began to stir up a conspiracy against those who were settled at Detroit; and actually, in 1712, when Sieur de Buisson was commandant at that place, the Huron and Outaouac conspirators, to the number of about nine hundred men, arrived at the French fort. That commandant opened the gate to them; they quickly entered the fort and ascended the bastions, which commanded the Renard fort, and fired many volleys of musketry at the Renards.

One of the Renard chiefs spoke aloud, addressing the French in the following terms: "What does this mean, my Father? Thou didst invite us to come to dwell near thee; thy word is even now fresh in our pouches. And yet thou declarest war against us. What cause have we given for it? My Father, thou seemest no longer to remember that there are no nations among those whom thou callest thy children who have not wet their hands with the blood of Frenchmen. I am the only one whom thou canst not reproach; and yet thou art joining our enemies to eat us. But know that the Renard is immortal; and that if in defending myself I shed the blood of Frenchmen my Father cannot reproach me." There were also many other points in his speech.