

ing hostages to take back to his Village, so that this man, by an authentic mark of the disease (which had cost him an eye), could Explain to them in what manner the others had died, the care that Monsieur the General had given Them during their illness, and what Ceremonies had been performed for them after their deaths; and, finally, that this malady had prevailed likewise among all the nations Near the French, and among the French themselves. This Envoy had a message from Monsieur the General; and I also was charged to ascertain, on arriving at Missilimakinac, what would be best to do.

I sent this hostage home with ten Frenchmen, including two Interpreters, who were to be Witnesses, night and day, of all that was said in the Councils; for there was ground for fearing, on account of the death at Montreal of the most notable of all their war-Chiefs, that they might espouse Sentiments directly opposed to their previous promises.

They received our Frenchmen, with the Envoy, by celebrating a Calumet-Hunt, and with all their customary marks of Ceremony; they gave to my Envoys a Cabin arranged and furnished according to their Custom; and, after having dried the tears which it is their wont to shed on the receipt of such news, they Listened to the hostage whom Monsieur de Vaudreuil had Sent to them. He spoke very favorably for us, conforming to what had been told him and to the truth. The old men replied that they had already Indirectly Heard this news about their people, but that they had refused to believe it Until they should have received reliable information Through their Father. They said that they could not come down this year to see their father; and that, inasmuch as the master of life had taken away the lives of their kinsmen and their Chiefs, they would be consoled for this, since they Were sleeping in the same bed with the Children of their father. But they added that they were obliged by their Custom to give to their dead the tears which they owe to them; that moreover, their Young men had been carried away by the sight of the merchandise which several French Canoes had brought to them, and consequently were destitute of peltries, having traded all the furs that they had set aside for paying the expenses of the Expedition; and that,