

but for the war which still continues between the Illinois, and the Kikapous and Mascoutins, in which the Renards now find themselves involved, because the Illinois have attacked them on various occasions since last year, killing and taking prisoners several of that nation. They did so without any regard for the action of the Renards, who sent back on eight different occasions some prisoners whom the Kikapous had taken, and whom they had given to the Renards—who, in liberating these prisoners, always charged them to say in the name of their Chiefs, that, if they desired peace, they had only to come to their Village, and there they would be in safety. As these excuses on the part of that nation seemed reasonable to me, and the Kikapous also represented that it was not they who had begun the war, but that the Illinois had attacked them at a time when they themselves were only desirous of living at peace with all the Nations, and as I was, moreover, informed of the truth of all these matters, I judged it expedient to treat them favorably. But I gave them to understand that this peace must be made; and that in order to succeed in this they must induce their allies, the Saskis Nation, to cooperate with them. I recommended to them to make no movement against the Illinois Nation while this negotiation was pending. They promised to inform those who had sent them of my wishes, and to do all in their power to persuade them to carry them out. But it is to be feared that their peaceful disposition may have changed; since on returning home, they learned that a band of forty Illinois, who came to make an attack, had encountered on their way the Renards, Kikapous, and Mascoutins, in the place where they were carrying on their Summer hunting together; and had been so completely surrounded and attacked that not one had escaped—twenty being killed on the spot, and as many more being made prisoners. As this affair must have led those three Nations to form a large band to go to attack their enemy in his own country, it will prove impossible to arrange this peace, unless the officer in command among the Illinois is able to induce that Nation to make overtures to obtain it.

I have much less difficulty in keeping the five Iroquois