

brought with them three slaves through whom they asked for their lives, and requested us to withdraw, as they were reduced to the last extremity. All our young men had great difficulty in consenting to this, as they had no other desire than to profit by their advantage. I represented to them at once that their father Onontio was a good model, and that they ought to imitate him in following the example he had set us, when, in a similar case, our lives were spared by Monsieur de Louvigny—although it would have been easy for us to escape by making a sortie at night, as we had resolved to do on the morrow of the Day on which our lives were granted, a thing which the Illinois could not do. Navangounik, my brother, who was with us and who is now present before you, said to me: ‘Ouashalas, my brother, you think rightly, and you should grant their lives. This action will be agreeable to your father Onontio, and I do not know of any way in which you can better show him your gratitude.’ Accordingly, their lives were spared; and, after granting them this favor, we withdrew at once.

“I beg you, my father, to inform our father Onontio of this. He will think, perhaps, that I do not deserve that he should deliver me up to all the nations to devour. I have absolutely no fear of them, for I fear him alone. I beg you also, my Father, to tell him that I had taken the Greatest precautions to protect the French whom we might have met on our way, and to prevent their suffering any insult. I would rather have died than have this occur, and I would not have quitted them before they were out of all danger. I had even taken the same precautions in regard to the Pouteuatamis, in case we had met any of them. I had recommended that they be brought to the camp without being bound, because it sufficed that they were the friends of Onontio. Moreover, you are well aware, my Father, that they are our most cruel enemies and that they have gone to Montreal to ask that we be destroyed. They owe their lives to Onontio, as well as to you, my Father, for otherwise they would themselves have been devoured by this time.

“I must tell you, my Father, that I have not come here on