

my own authority, since the principal men of the village tell you, as well as myself, that the wars are all ended today; and promise you, in the name of the whole nation, that we will not go to war with any nation, unless we are first attacked. It is our intention not to thwart the good understanding which you are laboring every Day to bring about, so as to ensure the repose and tranquillity of all the children of Onontio. We confess that we must all be Great dogs, and even worse than devils, if we do not listen to you as we ought, since you ask nothing but what is Just. But, my Father, have pity on us. You know well that chiefs like us, although they may be well-disposed, are scarcely listened to. The greater part of our Young men are absolutely worthless. I do not dare, my Father, to ask you for the slightest succor; I fear you too much; but as you send a canoe early in spring, we pray our father Onontio to make known to us his final intentions."

Elécavas, the Young brother of the first chief speaks: "My Father, my brother Elécavas, who, being very sick, has been unable to come to speak to you himself, sends me in his place to tell you to say to our father Onontio that it is now two years since he abandoned us, continuing always to cherish the purpose of destroying us; and that we shall await impatiently the return of your canoe to learn if he still persists in this purpose. For, if that is the case, we shall die with him; if he wishes absolutely to kill us he will find us in our fort, which we positively will not leave, as we have no place of retreat. If we had wished to get merchandise costing us nothing, we could easily have found the means of doing so secretly, but we wait to be absolutely obliged to do so. Then we can say that our Father has forced us to wait. This, my Father, is what I am charged to say."

Reply of Monsieur de Montigny to Ouashalas: "I have listened attentively, Ouashalas, to your words, which are those of your whole village, since you speak for them as well as for yourself. You will allow me to say that the war which you, with all those who have accompanied you, have just waged against the Illinois is very unjust, having no other pretext than to avenge the death of Minchilay—who brought