

corn. Again the Calumet was filled, and those who smoked blew the tobacco-smoke into the Frenchman's face, as the greatest honor that they could render him; he saw himself smoked like meat, but said not a word. This ceremony ended, a skin was spread for the Frenchman's Comrade. The Savages thought that it was their duty to carry the French guests; but the latter informed the Maskoutechs that, as they could shape the iron, they had strength to walk, so they were left at liberty. On the way, they rested again, and the same honors were paid to him as at the first meeting. Continuing their route, they halted near a high hill, at the summit of which was the Village; they made their fourth halt here, and the ceremonies were repeated. The great Chief of the Miamis came to meet them, at the head of more than three thousand men, accompanied by the Chiefs of other Nations who formed part of the Village. Each of these Chiefs had a Calumet, as handsome as that of the Old Man; they were entirely naked, wearing only shoes, which were artistically embroidered like buskins; they sang, as they approached, the Calumet song, which they uttered in cadence. When they reached the Frenchmen, they continued their songs, meanwhile bending their knees, in turn, almost to the ground. They presented the Calumet to the Sun, with the same genuflections, and then they came back to the principal Frenchman, with many gesticulations. Some played upon instruments the Calumet songs, and others sang them, holding the Calumet in the mouth without lighting it. A war Chief raised Perot upon his shoulders, and, accompanied by all the Musicians, conducted him to the Village. The Maskoutech who had been his guide offered him to the Miamis, to be lodged among them; they very amiably declined, being unwilling to deprive the Maskoutechs of the pleasure of possessing a Frenchman who had consented to come under their auspices. At last he was taken to the Cabin of the Chief of the Maskoutechs; as he entered, the lighted Calumet was presented to him, which he smoked; and fifty guardsmen were provided for him, who prevented the crowd from annoying him. A grand repast was served, the various courses of which reminded one of feeding-troughs rather than dishes; the food was seasoned with the fat of the wild ox. The Guards