

der the guidance of two fugitive Iroquois Slaves of the Pouteuatamis, made an onslaught, and killed all the people, except thirty women whom they led away as captives. As the men were away hunting, they met with but little resistance—there being only six warriors left in the cabins, besides the women and children, who numbered a hundred or thereabout. This carnage was committed two days' journey from the place of our winter quarters, at the foot of the Lake of the Ilinioues, which is called Machihiganing [Michigan].

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These Savages had withdrawn to those regions to escape the persecution of the Iroquois, and settled in an excellent country—the soil, which is black there, yielding them Indian corn in abundance. They live by hunting during the Winter, returning to their cabins toward its close, and living there on Indian corn that they had hidden away the previous Autumn; they season it with fish. In the midst of their clearings they have a Fort, where their cabins of heavy bark are situated, for resisting all sorts of attacks. On their journeys, they make themselves cabins with mats. They are at war with the Nadouecious, their neighbors. Canoes are not used by them; and, for that reason, they do not make war on the Iroquois, although they are often killed by them. They are held in very low estimation, and are considered by the other Nations as stingy, avaricious, thieving, choleric, and quarrelsome. They have a poor opinion of the French, ever since two traders in Beaver-skins appeared among them; if these men had behaved as they ought, I would have had less trouble in giving these poor people other ideas of the whole French Nation—which they are beginning to esteem, since I explained to them the principal and only motive that brought me to their country.

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On the twenty-ninth, we entered the River which leads to the Machkoutench, who are called by the Hurons *Assista Ectae-ronnons*, "Nation of Fire."¹ This River is very beautiful, without rapids or portages, and flows toward the Southwest.

¹It is generally supposed that the appellation "Fire Nation" arose from a mistranslation of the name Mascouten, which more properly signifies "people of the prairies." W. W. Tooker, however, thinks that