

pers and traders were no longer safe, and energy and ammunition formerly used in tracking beaver were perforce employed in hunting human Foxes. However, by the year 1729, the Renards were suing for peace, and the succeeding year saw them brought to bay. After a fierce campaign in the Lake Winnebago country, lasting for more than a month, the retreating tribes were discovered entrenched near "le Rocher," in the Illinois, attempting to cut their way eastward through hostile territory to an asylum among the Iroquois. Messages to the Illinois, to Fort St. Joseph, and to Ouatanon brought out a formidable war party of French and Indian allies, which for twenty-nine days besieged the fugitives in their stronghold. Reduced at last to the verge of starvation, the Renards sallied forth in the darkness of a storm, only to be overtaken, many of them being massacred during the following days. It was reported to the French governor that "not more than 50 or 60 men Escaped Without guns and Without any of the Implements for procuring Subsistence."

This staggering defeat appears to have aroused a sentiment of pity among the savages hostile to the Renards. "Our tribes were very anxious to spare the renards' lives;" "Meanwhile it was Found that the Sakis were betraying us;" "the Ouatans entered with reluctance upon the siege"—these are the significant reports of the French commandants. The succeeding year Governor Beauharnois writes that although the blow inflicted on the Renards was "a heavy one, and caused the destruction of the majority of that nation, The Slaves whom those savages had succeeded in withdrawing from the Natives with whom they Were had enabled them to make up a Village of 45 Cabins."

Despite the covert sympathy of the attacking tribes, and the efforts of the Foxes to secure allies as far removed from their territory as the Mahican and the Abenaki, the French cause again triumphed in the far West; the Sioux post was re-established, and a detachment sent to re-erect that at Green Bay. During the progress of this latter event, occurred the unfortunate encounter—which has until now been known only through the tradition learned from the Langlade family—wherein a