

But, on the 8th of September, A Violent storm with dreadful thunder and Continual rain Interrupted our work. The Day was Followed by a night as Rainy as it was dark and very cold. The renards seized The opportunity and issued in Silence from their fort. This was at once perceived through the Crying of the children. But what could be done and how was it possible to Recognize anybody in Such Obscurity? There was as much Fear of killing our own people as of Letting the enemy escape. Nevertheless all were Under arms and the Savages advanced On both flanks of the fugitives to be ready to attack them as soon as Day broke. Daylight came at last and All set out in Pursuit. Our Savages, who were fresher and more Vigorous, Soon Overtook them.

The women, children, and Old men walked at the head, and the Warriors posted Themselves in the rear to Protect them. Their ranks were at once Broken and defeated. The number of those killed and captured was about 300 Warriors, besides the women and children. It is Agreed on all sides that not more than 50 or 60 men Escaped Without guns and Without any of the Implements for procuring their Subsistence. The Illinois of le rocher, the Maskoutins, and quikapous Are now in pursuit of this small Remnant of fugitives, and the first news we shall get will tell us of the total destruction of That Wretched Nation.

We do not yet Know How many Warriors the Nations of Canada have killed nor how many prisoners they have taken.

*Letter of De Villiers*

MONSIEUR—I Had the honor of sending you a report on my first journey to le rocher, with the nations to prevent the renards from passing over to The Iroquois.

The first step I hasten to take on my arrival here, is to despatch to you a canoe, in which I send my son,<sup>1</sup> in order that he

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<sup>1</sup>This was, doubtless, Louis Coulon de Villiers, who afterwards attacked Washington at Fort Necessity. For a biographical sketch, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, v, pp. 118, 119.—Ed.