

thing, to make sure of the Sakis (as being Those who seemed to me the most to be suspected) for the success of the undertaking, And with that object I had given him a large collar, accompanied by presents and two medals for the two most noted chiefs of that Nation,—a Course that seemed all the more suitable since those savages had Until then manifested naught but Hostility toward the Renards and had also refused their alliance. The precautions that I took were calculated to strengthen the resolution they had taken, and to estrange them more and more from the Renards. If those measures, Monseigneur, had been Followed as I had arranged them, I can assert that Matters would not have reached such an extremity. As far as I was concerned, they were the Best measures that I could take, and They seemed to me all the more safe since I entrusted their execution to an officer who had always displayed great prudence in his actions. Monsieur de Villiers's conduct on that occasion gave a different aspect to the affair. That officer, who was ordered to act with the most gentle means, and to send word to the friendly nations to deliver up the Renards to him or to destroy them utterly, began by talking of war at Missilimakinac; and without heeding the commands that had been given him, he marched straight to la Baye with thirty French and a hundred folles avoines Savages, whom he gathered on the way; and he ordered the Sieur de Repentigny to follow him with thirty French whom he also had with him and a hundred Outaïacs. On approaching the post of la Baye, the Sieur de Villiers left the Sieur de Repentigny with his party half a league from the fort of the Sakis with orders to proceed there on hearing the signal of three gun-shots; and after embarking in his canoe to continue his route, he despatched his eldest son with ten Frenchmen and fifty savages to the petit Cacalin, a place by which the Renards might escape from the Sakis' fort, and he kept with Him only sixteen men, whom he divided into two parties to blockade the fort. To say nothing of the fact that all these manœuvres were contrary to the orders that he had received to adopt only the gentlest measures to secure the Subjugation of the Renards, and that for the Carrying out of