

Monsieur Dartaguiette asked me whether I would go back, saying that a party of 400 Missouris and Kansés with several Frenchmen was about to march Against the Renards and Sakis; that we might unite our forces and destroy them; and that he would give me food and men. I said that I was quite ready to march if he would take upon Himself the responsibility of the expense that this new war would cost. He replied that he would take no responsibility. I did not venture, Monsieur, to take it on Myself in view of the uncertainty of success. Neither could I march against the Chicachas on account of the band that the Missouris had levied against the Renards and the defection of our savages. I have nothing, Monsieur, wherewith to reproach myself and I venture to hope that you will not address any reproaches to me when I have done my best. You would hardly believe all that I have been through, and the fatigues I have endured. I would count them as nothing, had I succeeded. The savages Are the Sole Cause of our ill success and They could not help admitting to me that Nontagarouche had made us miss our opportunity.

I take the liberty, Monsieur, of representing to you that on expeditions of this kind It is necessary that the French should be stronger than the Savages so as to be able to dominate them; otherwise They dominate us, and I have experienced this only too well, notwithstanding my complaisance and attention to Them. There was one from the Sault who was bold enough to beat one of our Soldiers in my presence. I pretended to turn my head away as if I had not seen it, for we expected every Day to be abandoned by those people at the first word that we might say to them.

The Kikapou who was married among the Renards, and who followed Those who were with Me was shot dead two leagues from the Renards by an Iroquois who scalped Him in my presence. Never were Savages more surprised. They trembled like leaves, for they dreaded, with reason, that they might All meet the same fate for the Iroquois said: "We have come to seek Enemies; here are some already found since by their conduct they are as much Renards as the others."