

higher up than the first, they passed on their way back and danced the scalp dance for four days without saying to what nation the men belonged whom they had killed. The Puans found it out and notified the French in the fort.

They heard of the defeat of the French of the post of de la Verenderie<sup>1</sup> on the 23rd of August 1736, by two canoes of Saulteux of la Pointe who brought letters from the sieurs Nolan, Legras, and Bourassa.<sup>2</sup> They told them that the majority of those who had struck the blow were Sioux of the woods and that only five Sioux of the Prairies were with them. When the French heard this news, they kept on their guard.

On the 16th of September, the Sioux came to the fort to the number of ten men, three being chiefs with a Flag, two little girl slaves, 57 livres of dried beaver flesh, and nine deer-skins, which they delivered to the sieur de Saint Pierre saying that they had not taken any part in the attack on the French at the Western post, and by that word they begged him to continue to give them what they needed for the subsistence of their families. He replied that he would grant their request until he had news from the great Onontio; that he had nothing to say to them, except that he would inform Onontio of the step they were taking in sending him their word; that he could not rely on them after what they had done. He also spoke to them of the two Frenchmen whom they had killed on the Mississippi.

On the following day, there came with three young men a chief who had a silver seal hanging from his ear. The sieur de

<sup>1</sup> See ante, pp. 261, 262.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> These were well-known voyageurs and Indian traders. Jean Baptiste Nolan was a merchant of Montreal, who had two sons; probably this one was Charles, born 1694, died 1754. Daniel Legras, the son of Jean, was interpreter for the king; he was born in 1698, and married at Kaskaskia, Ill. There were a number of voyageurs by the name of Bourassa, but the most noted was René, born in 1688, who settled at Mackinac, and whose daughter Charlotte was the wife of Wisconsin's first settler, Charles Langlade. Bourassa brought news of the massacre of the French to Quebec. See Jones, *Auneau Collection*, pp. 93, 94.—Ed.