Wisconsin Historical Collections [vol. xvii

they raised a band to attack them, and arrived at the sieur de Saint Pierre's post on the 21st of May. They went to the Puans to engage them in their quarrel. The sieur de Saint Pierre did all he could to prevent their attacking the Sioux, saying that they exposed the French to be massacred because, as they had come to the fort, it would look as if the latter had induced them to make the attack; that if, on the contrary, they had all taken a roundabout way, the Sioux might have thought that the attack was made by warriors who had started from their village for the purpose of avenging themselves. They promised him that they would go back the next day. They did not do so, at the request of the Puans who stopped them. During their stay five Sioux arrived, and entered the French fort to trade. The French warned them that a band of Saulteux had come to avenge the blow inflicted on them. At night they asked to escape, and the gate of the fort was opened for The Saulteux, who were aware of this, lay in ambush for them on the way. One of the band who spoke Sioux, asked: "Who are you?" A Sioux recognizing the Saulteux's voice, fired a gun at him, and broke his wrist. They escaped through the woods.

On the following day, the Saulteux started early in the morning to return home. Two hours after their departure. twenty five Sioux arrived, who were informed by the Puans of what had occurred. The Sioux wished to run after the Saulteux; the sieur de Saint Pierre opposed it. A Saulteux who had married amongst the Puans started to go and warn them of the arrival of the twenty five Sioux. The Saulteux retraced their steps, went to the Puans and they all resolved to destroy them. Le Grelot, the chief of the Puans, told a Frenchman who was in their village to warn the sieur de Saint Pierre of what was going on; but the warriors had already started, and he could not frustrate their design. He notified seventeen Sioux, who were in his fort of the plot that was being hatched against them, and told them to put their canoes in safety, and to warn the eight men who were outside. Four issued from the fort to go to their people and to the canoes; they found the

[272.]