

oppose their passage; that those people had many Savages on their side, and that as he is not strong enough to stop them, he causes a careful watch to be kept. He writes that nothing that he could say would represent the Fact as bad as It is.

I Had determined, Monseigneur, to ask you for an Amnesty for Them, solely in consequence of what you had done me The honor of writing to me last year, that His Majesty was to Send Troops to this Colony. I intended to garrison the Posts with them, and to have these Coureurs de Bois sent down after the Proclamation. I think however that many will Return, when they Hear of the pardon that His Majesty has Granted them.¹

The Outawais, Sinagos, and Kiskacous, with the folles avoines, Poutouatamis, and Puants, came down this Year. The Outawais asked that the lives of the Sakis be spared, and so did a Chief whose brother had been killed by that nation. The Poutouatamis made the same request of me, and the folles avoines for the Renards, although they have always Been their most Cruel Enemies, saying to me that all the Evil Hearts Had been destroyed. The Puants joined with them in this request. I assembled them all in a Council, and said to them: "My Children, since you ask me for the Lives of the Renards and Sakis, and assure me that all the Evil hearts have Been destroyed, I am willing to grant this out of consideration for you, to prove to you that I Desire to see you tranquil on your Mats, and that I am glad to give you the means of hunting in peace so that you may provide subsistence for your families." I sent them all away happy. I think that I shall have the Satisfaction of seeing them United, for they have so promised me. Those who wished to be Revenged yielded to my arguments.

The position of Affairs did not permit me, Monseigneur, to hesitate for a moment to grant them what they Urgently asked

¹ The coureurs' de bois were a standing menace to the colony and its fur-trade monopoly. Illicit traders, they ranged among the Indian tribes, securing furs, and frequently selling them to the English. From necessity, amnesties were granted them in 1682, 1703, and 1716. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, index. Compare the rebellion of their descendants under Louis Riel, in Manitoba, in 1869 and 1885.—Ed.