

assure them; that he has a well-founded reason to fear that—although the hurons have apparently acquiesced in the Orders of Monsieur the General to remain at Detroit—they may at the first alarm go either to the Sonontouans, as they have been asked to do, or beyond the belle Rivière.¹

The 1st of February Monsieur de Noyelle Writes that the Savages Have been in fear of one another throughout all the winter; that the hurons all Went to winter in the interior contrary to their custom; that they abandoned their clearings and a portion of their Indian Corn; that there was a rumor they were to go to the Têtes plates; that they told him they could not calm the Minds of their wives and children and that they would always be in a state of dread at that Post.

Orontony, the great Chief of that Nation,² gave him branches of Porcelain to be Sent to His Father Onontio on behalf of the whole village, by which they begged him to grant them permission to go and Settle near him, as they could no longer live in peace at that Place, because whenever the Têtes-plates might make an Attack on the Nations of Detroit they (the Hurons) would always be accused of having a share in it; and to Avoid being some day reduced to cruel Extremities, they reiterated the request they had made.

The First of May Monsieur De Noyelle Writes that he Sends two Collars on behalf of the hurons. By the first they beg their Father to grant them a tract of land near him so that their

¹The Sonontouan (Seneca) were the most westerly of the Iroquois confederacy. By this time they had begun to remove to the Allegheny River, and there was one village within the present state of Ohio. "Belle Rivière" (beautiful river) was the French appellation of the Ohio.—Ed.

²Onontony (baptismal name, Nicolas) was the leader of the band of Huron who removed to the Sandusky, and after making an alliance with the Iroquois and English rebelled against French authority (1747), and plotted to form an inter-tribal conspiracy to destroy Detroit. Failing in this, he removed the next year to White River, and later to the Ohio. By the year 1751, he appears to have been no longer living. For his negotiations with the English, see Weiser's "Journal," in *Early Western Travels* (Cleveland, 1904), i, pp. 28-38.—Ed.