

1740: THE SIOUX REPENTANT

[Speech of the Sioux to French commandant. MS. in archives of Ministère des Colonies, Paris; pressmark, "Corresp. gen., vol. 74, c. 11, fol. 85."]

Words of two Sioux Chiefs, Ninsotin or two-hearts, Ouabachas,¹ and eight Warriors. To the Sieur Marin at Rock River, March 9, 1740.

My Father, we Have Come in the name of our Chiefs and old men, to inform you of the mischief which our people, who Were waiting for you at the portage of the Ouisconsin, have done to the Outaouacs.

My Father, this outrage was committed only on account of the bad News which the Renards brought us. They told us that our people, whom you had taken last year to Montreal to ask their lives of our Father Onontio, and to ask him to receive us among the number of his Children, had been put to death On arriving there. In spite of this, My Father, our people waited a week Longer to learn if this report Was true. After that, there came an Outaouac Canoe, in which there was a man and a woman who landed peaceably. Our people asked them if they had not some news of you and of those who Had gone down with you to see our Father Onontio. The Outaouac woman answered that they had no other news to tell them except that their people had been burned on arriving at Montreal. Immediately three or four of their

¹This is the earliest known mention of Wabashaw, the first of three Sioux chiefs of the same name. He was leader of the largest band of that tribe, and had a village near the present site of Winona, Minn. He was a devoted adherent of the British in the Revolutionary War, who spoke of him as a chief of "singular and uncommon abilities." Receiving a commission nominating him as general, he took part in the expedition against St. Louis in 1780, and went several times to Quebec, there being given flags and medals. His coming was always recognized at Mackinac by a salute of honor. His son Wabashaw succeeded him, taking part on the British side in the War of 1812-15, and joining the Americans in the pursuit of Black Hawk. He died in 1835. A grandson of the same name was prominent in 1848.—ED.