

By a Collar

My son, I shall ever find good all that may come from thee, because I know that thine is a right Mind. It is a pity that Koutaouen should have lost his medal. I replace it for him; let him be careful to keep it well; he is wrong in not venturing to present himself before me empty-handed, because I am satisfied when I Listen to my Children.

My Children, all the Chiefs promised Monsieur De Noyan, as he Wrote me, not to go to Choueghen any more. I have learned that they have Sent their wives there. They must know that this is the same as if they had gone there themselves, and that this is against my will.

Speech of the Poutouatamis of River St. Joseph, to Monsieur the Marquis de Beauharnois, Governor-general of New France, July 16, 1742.

My Father, we are delighted to hear that the King, our Great Father, has raised you to higher dignities. He knew he was giving you only that to which you were entitled, and that he was rewarding your services.

My Father, we have been Induced to come down on account of the evil things whereof we were told we were accused. We have come to clear ourselves. It is Pilémou,¹ Tchichaakane, Mékisslin, and Oquiyaouy who speak to you.

My Father, the Children of Monsieur Marin have accused us of having killed thirty Frenchmen in the Illinois country. We beg you not to believe a word of it. Our band, Consisting of ten men, came upon a Negro who Had escaped; they Took him with Them on the war-path; he was taken from their hands by the French.

My Father, we are also accused of having killed two Frenchmen, and of having said that we had done so to avenge ourselves.

¹Pilémou had previously visited Montreal (1721). See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, p. 398.—Ed.