

A Frenchman told us this on our way down. We Also beg you not to believe it.

My Father, I have come without design to bring you these tidings.

My father, at the time the blow was struck at le Corbeau (the Raven), we said you had nothing to do with it; that we had no Wish to revenge ourselves; that our Hearts were not turned to evil, but, on the contrary, we wished to forget everything.

My Father, we ask you for Déhestre as blacksmith, and that he may work solely for himself, because, if anybody should receive any Remuneration from him, he would be obliged to charge us more for his work. We ask this favor of you in the name of all the Chiefs and of the whole village.

My Father, when last we came here you said to us: My Children, come and see me next year. I was unable to obey you because I went on the war-path against the Chicachas.

My Father, the people in our village think you will make us drink some of your Milk.

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*Reply of Monsieur the Marquis de Beauharnois, Governor-general of New France, to the speech of the Poutouatamis, of River St. Joseph, July 22, 1742.*

My Children, it has given me much pleasure to see you. I am obliged to you for the compliment you pay me regarding the new dignity wherewith the King has honored me.

My Children, you must never Listen to bad news. I have long known Pilééou, Tchichaakane, Mékissilini, and Oquiyaouy.

My Children, I have never heard that you were accused, either in the direction of la Baye or in any other place, of having killed Frenchmen. You are Children too submissive to your Father, to be guilty of such evil deeds. You savages are to be pitied because you believe and Listen to everything that is said to you. Do you not know that if you had been accused of such a thing I should have made my thoughts known to you long ago?