

selves therefore to spend the winter with us and begin to build cabins for your use."

"Have you pondered well," I replied, "on what I represented to you yesterday. Do you realize that you will have to answer for us, body for body, and that if any accident should befall us you will be held accountable?"

"We know it, we think of it," they answered; "We have come to our decision after mature deliberation."

It was therefore necessary to attack the forest with our axes, and with the assistance of the young Kikapous we finished our houses in a week. We were already beginning to settle down; we had no further quarrels to endure; we were living on good terms. But, on November 2, a Kikapou informed me that ten Renards had arrived in the village. A moment afterwards Kansekoé, the chief of these new comers, entered my house, held out his hand to me and said: "I greet thee, my father," and the better to deceive me, he assured me that he had an order to lodge in my dwelling. I put a good face on the matter in spite of my surprise; and offered food to my treacherous visitor. Our faithful Chaouénon told me that Kansakoé was endeavoring to seduce the Kikapous by means of presents. But fortunately I had already won the young men by a barrel of powder, 2 blankets, 2 pounds of vermilion, and other presents.

The Kikapous, after refusing the calumet and porcelain¹ of the Renards, were nevertheless intimidated by their threats and urged me to help them by presents to cover the last Renards who had died.² I gave them two braided coats, two cloth blankets, 50 pounds of powder, 50 pounds of lead, two pounds of vermilion, etc.

On the following day, a great council was held at which I was present with Father Guignas; this gave me an opportunity of preparing a present to be sent to the Renards in my own name.

¹This was the Canadian term for the wampum belts, which were used as a pledge of an alliance.—ED.

²An Indian phrase for appeasing the wrath of the relatives of a murdered man by presents. Compare the "wergeld" of the early Germans.—ED.