

Word of the Kikapous and Mascoutins by a barrel of 5 pounds of powder, 5 pounds of lead, 2 pounds of vermilion, 2 braided coats and a blanket.

“My brothers, for a long while we have not seen the sun—

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“Fear nothing,” I said to them, “my cousins<sup>2</sup> will do you justice and will appreciate the services you have rendered us.” This promise reassured them and they resolved to save us at all costs. “For if they perish we are dead men,” they said to one another; “and since we are too much exposed here to the attacks of the Renards, let us go and establish ourselves on the neighboring island on which they will not be able to land unless we choose.” This was a very wise decision. By means of presents I urged the young Kikapous to shift the camp as quickly as possible; and as soon as we were settled on the island couriers were sent out to notify the Kikapous scattered in the woods.

About that time we were informed of the barbarous design of Pechicamengoa, a Kikapou chief, a great warrior, redoubtable through the credit he had gained, and the great number of his brothers and relatives, and of young Kikapous subject to his orders. As he had married a Renard wife, Kansekoé and his companions had no difficulty in inducing him to assassinate Reverend Father Guignas, and they made him promise that he would not go to the village of the Renards without bringing the father’s scalp with him.

In order that he might not fail in striking his blow, he concealed his wicked design for some days. One fine night he invited two of his young men to keep him company in a sweating lodge, not so much for the purpose of sweating as of cleverly allowing his secret to ooze out according to the custom of the savages in those sweating lodges, and of inducing those

<sup>1</sup>Two pages are missing here from the manuscript from which this is copied. This accounts for the hiatus.—BIBAUD.

<sup>2</sup>The hiatus apparently contained an account of the escape of the brothers Montbrun, who were cousins of De Boucherville; and of the subsequent fear of the Kickapoo. This escape saved the rest of the party from being delivered to the Foxes. See *post*, p. 60.—Ed.