

having you." I replied to them: "Had you wished to believe me, to accept my present and consent to our separation, this misfortune would not have happened to you. Did I not warn you of this." "Thou art right," they replied, "but what are we to do in the present predicament? We are between two fires; the Renard has killed us, the Illinois has killed us,¹ the Frenchman is angry with us. What are we to do?"

"Your affairs," I answered, "are not so difficult to arrange as you imagine. Give me two chiefs to accompany me; I will start for the Illinois country, and I pledge myself to make your peace with those tribes." "That is a very good idea," they said. But the trouble was to find people brave enough to accompany me. After much discussion a Kikapou and a Mascoutin, born of Illinois mothers, offered themselves. One of them had lost his son in the war.

We started on December 27, notwithstanding the unendurable severity of the season;² and, after many hardships and much fatigue which can be appreciated only by those who endure them, we arrived on the ninth day amongst the Péoaria on the river of the Illinois, twenty leagues from the Mississippi. Several tribes were gathered together in this village, keeping always on the watch and anxious for news of the Kikapous.

Two hunters perceived us and, re-assured at the sight of the flags held up by my people, they approached us. One of my companions who spoke the Illinois language, told them that we came to treat for peace; that the French detained amongst his people were well; that the Renards, in revenge for the refusal to deliver up the French to them, had killed two Kikapous.

As soon as the Péoaria heard of our arrival, they sent thirty young Illinois to meet us. My two savages waited for them, and after weeping for their dead, and having had their tears wiped away, and having been ceremoniously offered a

¹ The Kickapoos and the Illinois had been at war since 1718. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, p. 377.—Ed.

² The winter of 1728-29 was one of unusual severity throughout all Canada and the Northwest, and recalled the winter of 1708-09 in France. See Ferland, *Cours d' Histoire* (Quebec, 1865), ii, p. 435.—Ed.