

strangers, demanded that they should speak in his presence, which they refused to do, and the Illinois approved. However, the latter promised him that they should give him communication of whatever would be said; but their council being held during the night they reported to this commandant whatever they pleased. The latter seeing that the Illinois were deceiving him, gave them to understand, in a meeting, that he knew everything, and that they could not conceal aught from him. These Indians, on reflection, admitted the fact. They placed in his hands the message in question, which consisted of a shell, a calumet and some tobacco. He returned it to them immediately, and told them to give it back to those who had brought it; one of these three strange Indians took this message, and said, he would not return back with it; he said, he should be ashamed to take it back, and, being himself an Illinois, remained with his people.

M^r de Berthet has been informed by a Huron returning from the Chicachas war, who had spent the winter at Sonnioto with the Chaouenons, of the league formed by the latter to destroy the Upper country posts; this Huron has assured him that the Iroquois of the Great village, as well as all the other nations, had accepted the tomahawk against the French, and had all reunited together to seize all the French posts, beginning with the Illinois country; that this attack would be made during the August moon, and at the fall of the leaf; and that he was present when the belts were distributed for the conspiracy; that he vouched for the truth, and warned him to be on his guard. He added, that should the expedition not take place at the time he mentioned, it would be postponed until the ensuing spring, or the affair would go to sleep altogether. La Demoiselle, the Miamis chief, is the concoctor of this league. Had M. Berthet been provided with some merchandise, he might have hoped to stop these tribes, being known to the principal ones; but his poverty has reached the point that there is not in the King's stores nor among the traders, an ell of cloth, nor a particle of ammunition to defend themselves in case they are attacked. This circumstance has obliged him