

great red calumet which all smoked, we were relieved of our baggage. We were conveyed to a large cabin through so great a crowd of spectators that we could hardly make our way. We were seated upon a fine new mat, and on a bear skin. Two young Illinois, adorned with many ornaments, came to remove our shoes and grease our feet. We were given the most palatable food to be had in the village. The Kikapou accompanying me, who had lost his son, wept for him a second time; all the chiefs arose in turn to wipe away his tears, and after hearing all that had occurred, they said: "Take courage, my brothers, we will help you to avenge your dead."

On the morrow at break of day they came to conduct us to a feast; and throughout the day we went without stopping from cabin to cabin, from feast to feast. These poor people could not find any food good enough for me so pleased were they at the good news I brought.

It was my intention to proceed as soon as possible to the French village four days' journey from the Péoarias;<sup>1</sup> but I had to abandon the trip owing to a swollen foot caused by a long march through exceedingly cold water. I therefore sent Reverend Father Guignas's letters by a special messenger. I wrote to Monsieur Desliettes, the commandant, and sent him the presents from the Kikapous. These consisted of that famous bloody calumet, and of the two brasses of bloodstained porcelain which the Renards had offered in order to have us delivered up to them.

Word of the Kikapous and Mascoutins accompanied by the presents above mentioned:

"1st, Our words and our actions are guided solely by the arm of Ononchio to whom we are attached.

"2nd, We have been killed, my father, by the Renards because we supported the French. If thou wouldst sent us some Frenchmen to help us, thou wouldst please us.

---

<sup>1</sup>This was the village of Kaskaskia, Illinois, founded in 1700, and erected into a parish in 1719.—Ed.