

"8th, Behold the Frenchmen who start tomorrow to carry your words to Ononchio from the lower Mississippi. I write him that they are sincere. I beg you, Mascoutins and Kikapous, not to make me tell a falsehood.

"9th, You sent me your calumet; I send you mine. While smoking it think of what I say to you.

"10th, When you arrive here with the Frenchmen, I will speak to the Illinois who will give you back your kinsmen whom they have had since last summer; for they have no others from an earlier time.

"11th, Ononchio will not forget what you have done for the Frenchmen, whom you have refused to deliver up to the Renards. Continue to take good care of them; respect the Black gown. When he is here we will not forget the care you have taken of him, of the chief, and of the Frenchmen."

Our couriers returned on the seventh day from their departure and brought me letters from Monsieur Desliettes, from some officers, and from the Reverend Jesuit Fathers, who advised me not to go back to the Kikapous, where things had perhaps taken a different aspect on our behalf since my departure.

The Illinois had already begun to chant their war-song with all their hearts; two hundred young warriors had already prepared their arrows. But Monsieur Desliettes told them to wait until the spring, because it would be unwise to rely upon the Kikapous, who had so often failed to keep their word.

I was therefore given only two illinois chiefs and eight young men. I was loaded with tobacco and other presents for the Kikapous. We started rather late, and slept at a spot five or six leagues from the village.

At night two couriers brought me a letter from Reverend Father D'Outrelo,¹ a jesuit, who begged me to wait for him as he wished to consult with me on the means to be adopted for

¹ Etienne d'Outreleau was a Jesuit missionary, born in 1693, who came to Louisiana in 1727. He was assigned to the Illinois mission, and was in the Mississippi valley for about twenty years. In 1730, he narrowly escaped massacre at the hands of the Yazoo, and in 1737 was chaplain of a hospital in New Orleans.—Ed.