

About six o'clock in the evening with letters from Reverend Father Guignas and from the officer commanding at the river St. Joseph, by means of which I have learned that the Quicapoux and Mascoutins have refused to deliver the French (whom they detained last autumn) into the hands of the Renards, who Came on two different occasions into the village of the Quicapoux and Maskoutins to demand them ; That the Renards were affronted by that refusal and (on their way home) had entered three Quicapoux cabins and had killed two young men,—one a Quicapoux and the other a Maskoutin ; That, after this attack, the Quicapoux had sent to the Ayowetz¹ to request them not to give shelter to the Renards in their territory And that they had, at the same time, Sent some Quicapoux with Monsieur de Boucherville to the Illinois in order to sue for peace with the French and the savages of that quarter, to assure them of their rupture with the Renards, and to take together the necessary steps for Avenging themselves on that common Enemy.

It appears, Monseigneur, from the Letters of Reverend father Guignoss (Extracts wherefrom I have the honor of sending you) that the Escape of the Sieur de Montbrun and of the two Frenchmen who fled with him prevented the Maskoutins and Quicapoux from delivering the French of whom they were masters into the hands of the Renards, and led them to give them kind treatment, in a manner which Reverend father Guignoss and the French who remained with him did not in the least expect. The Sioux for their part have treated the French who remained in their fort very well and guarded them throughout the entire winter in the fear that they might be attacked by the Renards. This news which re-assures us as to the Fate of our French, leads us to think that the nations in the upper country, both of the Mississipy and of Canada, are about to form a league for the purpose of waging war in Earnest against the Renards. It seems important to foster these favor-

¹The Iowa, a Siouan tribe, living in Minnesota when first known to the French. In 1736, they numbered perhaps 400 to 500, with 80 warriors.—Ed.