

them. But the Renards replied that they had not yet had time to taste the broth they had given them to drink; that there was not enough to satisfy so many as they Were; that they must also deliver into their hands the four of their number who had been cowardly enough to give up their people to the Outaouys and folles Avoines, their Enemies; and that when they had drunk the broth, they would see Whether they were sufficiently satiated to be able to grant their request. This proposal seemed too great an insult to the Puants to allow of their consenting to it; they therefore prepared to sustain the siege and defend themselves as well as they could, having food for a couple of months.

During the interval of the Fight that lasted nearly a month and a half, the folles avoines became uneasy at not seeing the Puants walking about in their midst as usual, or any of their people who Were with Them, and six of their number went within sight of the Renards' forts which they saw distinctly, to find out whether their tribesmen Were with the Puants. Being unable to enter their fort without risking their lives, they retraced their steps, and hastened to give information of what was going on to their people, who, at the time, Were at a distance of a short day's journey from my fort; they were pursued by the Renards who Had perceived that they were on the march but who were unable to overtake them.

The folles avoines at once deputed one of their chiefs, to beg me to be good enough to have pity on Them, by placing myself at their head to extricate their people from the perilous position in which they were placed, and, at the same time, to bring aid to the puants who, judging from what they had seen, were greatly in need of it, as they were almost at the mercy of the Renards, unless succor were brought them. I replied that as I had been sent by you, Monsieur, to be a father to them in their needs, I Was ready to help them in war as well as in other things, being convinced that this could but be agreeable to you, and that I would march alone at their head because I could not make up my mind to leave my fort undefended, and that I had to leave the French who Were with me to guard it. Two or three days af-