

terwards, they came and begged me to counsel them as to what they should do: whether to leave their women and Children in a fort at the place where they Were, or to bring them out on the Lake shore. I told them that I Left the decision to them and had no advice to give them. Thereupon they finally decided to bring them to my fort, after considering for a long while Whether they would have sufficient time to do so, fearing that the delay would be fatal to the Undertaking they had in view of going to free their people from the hands of the Renard. In fact they took a very long time to start, and afterwards they again begged me to remember the promise I had given them to march at their head; and to be good enough to allow their women and Children to remain in my fort under the protection and guidance of the Frenchmen whom I should Leave there and of some of their old men who Were not in a Condition for such a march. I answered that, as I had given my word, I Was not desirous of withdrawing it, provided that they would always do what I wished, and await my counsels; I also told them that, after seeing the Renard and doing what I Wished to do, I would go no further, but would return. When matters had been thus arranged and as I was about to start, being the only Frenchman with them, my people who Were with me, came and begged me, as a favor, to allow them to accompany me, saying that they would be delighted to benefit by the advantages they already promised themselves to gain with me over that cursed nation of the Renard, and that they positively could not reconcile themselves to the idea of seeing me start on such an Undertaking without Freely and heartily offering me the services they owed to their prince, and that they would even be in despair were I to refuse to accept them. Although I had intended to not Expose to danger, a single one besides myself, I could not refuse young men who seemed full of Spirit and Courage, and I chose Five of them to accompany me, representing to the four others that I could not avoid showing the savages the interest I took in them, by placing their women and Children under their guard during the Campaign.