

to whom they had promised fealty last year and that, having been warned of the Renards' wickedness and treachery on all occasions, I could not rely on their word, adding that I could not trust them, after all the treacherous acts of which they had been guilty towards the French whom they had betrayed on several occasions; that if it were true that the puants had acted as they (the Renards) said they had, I would avenge myself on them without requiring the assistance of anybody, but that, before doing so, I wished to ascertain the whole truth. While I was holding this conversation with them, they were posting two parties in ambush about an arpent from my position. I noticed this at the time, and as I already had some wounded, I was somewhat at a loss as to how I should save them because it was impossible for them to walk. I nevertheless ventured to attempt to reach the fort of the Puants who, in the darkness, had sent me three canoes to facilitate the removal of my wounded. This was effected with the greatest precautions; I myself went to beguile the Renards with many threats, while my wounded were embarked in the canoes. That night, being the second from the day on which I arrived, I also gained the fort of the Puants; shortly afterwards, in spite of all the shots fired at us by the Renards while crossing, against which we protected ourselves quite easily in the darkness of a night that seemed given us to favor our retreat.

On entering the fort, I found only people mourning and ashamed at the sight of their deliverers. I therefore hastened to call out in a loud voice, "What are you thinking of, you puants who are our brothers, and why are you in such deep sorrow, at a time when you should rejoice at seeing one of the elders of onontiô, your father, coming to your assistance, for it is true that I am here solely for the purpose of saving your lives and of delivering you from the hands of those evil men who seem anxious to destroy you without sparing a single one of you? Arm yourselves, therefore, with joy and courage and act like those whom I have brought with me and who are your brothers, thinking of nothing but defending your lives and those of your wives and children and of all your allies."