

of the two Frenchmen and would compensate me for their loss by the blows they would strike against the English.

All our nations of the upper countries and our domiciled savages who were in this town, to the number of from 1,700 to 1,800,⁴⁹ joined those Ayoouois and gave me the most touching words to induce me to pardon them. I did not deem it advisable to refuse them because all those nations were about to start to join my expedition against fort George and circumstances required that I should give proofs of kindness to all those nations.

Nevertheless, I made them very anxious to obtain that favor and granted it only after repeated solicitations.⁵⁰

That favor will contribute more to restrain the savage nations than if I had had the two murderers' heads broken, be-

⁴⁹ The fall of Fort Oswego in the summer of 1756 produced a profound effect in the upper country; see *ante*, p. 164, note 6. Thereupon great numbers of the tribesmen, thinking the French cause liable to triumph, offered their services for the campaign of 1757. Early in May they began to arrive at Montreal, and detachments under trusted leaders were dispatched to the army at Crown Point and Ticonderoga. June 23, Montcalm wrote that there were eight hundred at Montreal, of whom four hundred were Ottawa, one hundred Folles Avoines, three hundred Puants, Sakis, Renards, and Iowa—"the latter have never appeared before at Montreal." On the campaign there were 1,800 in all, of whom less than 500 were mission Indians. See lists in *N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, x, p. 630; consult also "Journal of Lévis," in *Lévis MSS.*, i, pp. 89-91.—Ed.

⁵⁰ Montcalm, in a letter to Bourlamaque, dated Montreal, June 23, 1757, writes the following description of this ceremony: "There occurred here, yesterday, the grand ceremony of pardoning two Iowas who had killed two Frenchmen, two years ago. They smoked the peace calumet; the murderers were brought out, bound, with the emblem of a slave [prisoner] in their hands, singing their death song as if they were to be burned. Saint-Luc and Marin fulfilled the functions of the chevalier de Dreux and Monsieur Desgranges.

"These savages, so the ladies say, dance much better than our domiciled ones, and one of these days they are to be reviewed on the plain du Sablon. The generals and the ladies will be present." *Lévis MSS.*, v, pp. 175, 176.—Ed.