

killed a Frenchman on the river of the Illinois at le Rocher.²¹ Those Saulteux discovered four cabins of the Illinois and determined to attack them at dawn. There was nobody in those cabins but a Frenchman who was found after a careful search. A savage of the band threw his arms around the Frenchman to protect him, and called out to the others that it was a Frenchman, but he was too late. The Frenchman received at the same instant a gunshot that stretched him on the ground and burned the skin of the savage who tried to protect him. That Frenchman's name was Jean Brossat.

The Saulteux went in a body to report this unfortunate affair to Monsieur Duplessis in the same terms. They begged pardon of him. He refused to receive their words and told them they must address themselves directly to me.

The Saulteux claim that the Frenchman was killed without premeditation, and that, when the savage was called to, he had already pulled the trigger of his gun.

Nevertheless, Monsieur Duplessis wrote me on the 16th of last month that the murder had been committed through rank treachery; that the Saulteux and the people of l'Isle des poux²² had gone to Chikagou to join the Poutetouatamis who had asked them to unite in a war-party; that they set out and, having met the Frenchman, they ate and drank with him, and then killed him.

I am giving orders to Monsieur Duplessis to tell the Saulteux that I will not allow the death of that Frenchman to go unpunished; that they must absolutely come to Montreal themselves next year to deliver me the murderer at discretion, and that, if they fail to do so, I will avenge the death and grant them no quarter.

Next year I will inquire closely into the matter and, if that savage really committed the deed through treachery, I will have his head broken, such a step being indispensable.

The guard-house of fort Missilimakinack has been destroyed

²¹ For this landmark see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, p. 100.—ED.

²² For this island see *Ibid.*, p. 359.—ED.