

Cerne (Surround) killing animals;³⁰ they fell upon them and so sharp was the attack that the grands Ossages lost 22 of their chiefs, while the others left 27 of their people on the field of battle. This action made the grands Ossages reflect; they went to see Monsieur de St. Clin to weep for the death of their chiefs. He gave them a small present to console them.

The grands Ossages left no effort untried to induce the Illinois to join them to go and avenge the death of their people, but Monsieur de St. Clin, to prevent their solicitations having any effect, represented to the Illinois that the Panis Noirs and Picqués and the Laytannes were allies of the French as they were;³¹ that they could not find fault with people who, after being long attacked, endeavored to avenge themselves; and finally he succeeded in inducing the Illinois not to listen to the grands Ossages, by representing to them that if they wished to go to war they should direct their steps towards the Chikachas, that the blood of their fathers and that of the French still flowed on the lands of that nation, and that everything urged them to avenge their death.

The grands Ossages were surprised at seeing the Laytannes. They dread them greatly. In fact that nation says it knows not what it is to retreat, and that it always attacks, whether it be strong or weak. The Laytannes are armed with spears like the ancient Spaniards; they are always mounted on caparisoned horses, and their women go to war with them.

I have already had the honor to inform you, Monseigneur, by my letter of the 15th of October, 1750, that a Poutetouamis of the river St. Joseph had been killed. That savage was one of a band coming from the Illinois country. He was killed

³⁰ This probably refers to the custom of the plains Indians of hunting buffalo by means of a great park, which they formed with a cordon of trees and stones, and then drove the animals within. See description in *Id.*, xxii, p. 390.—Ed.

³¹ Referring to the alliance made with these tribes by the brothers Mallet, who crossed the plains to Santa Fé in 1739, and noted particularly "Laitanes". See also Margry, *Découv. et Établ.*, vi, pp. 455-462.—Ed.