

On the 6th, the orator came, attended by the chiefs and women of the council, and said to M. Pouchot that they had come to give an answer to the Missisakes in his presence. They brought some strings,<sup>1</sup> and a fine belt of five thousand heads.

By the first string he said: "Brothers, I thank the Master of Life, who has given us a fine day, to meet you in good health, and that we find you enjoying the same."

By the second string: "I open your ears so that you can well understand what I am going to say to you."

By the third string: "This is to clear your stomachs of that bad bile which gives a black humor, so that you may listen quietly and with pleasure."

By the fourth: "I cover the dead bodies of all your warriors, since we are on an occasion when all our mats are together, so that you can, after leaving your mourning, hear with cheerfulness and contentment."

By the belt: "Brothers, we have listened well to your word. We are pleased that you have not lent your ears to the bad birds, and that you have remembered what you were told of old, that you should have recourse to your father. This is showing the same spirit as our ancestors who have passed away, and who thought of nothing but to labor upon good affairs. We have great joy at seeing you of these sentiments, but we pray you to speak from the heart, and not from the

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<sup>1</sup>These strings of wampum are always the preamble of councils. — *Note in Original.*