

VOYAGES AND EXPLORATIONS

me at the risk of their lives, aiding me with a goodly number of men who could go anywhere; and that in the future we should expect the same from them that they did from us. They at once sent for fifty beavers and four of their shell necklaces⁵ (which they value as we do chains of gold). These presents, they said, were from the other captains, who never had seen me, and that they had sent them to me, and that they desired to be my friends always, but that if there were any Frenchmen who wished to go with them they should be very glad, and that they wished more than ever to maintain a firm friendship.

After much talk I proposed to them that, since they were willing to show me their country, I would ask His Majesty to aid us with forty or fifty men equipped with what was necessary for this journey, and that I would embark with them, provided that they supply us with what provisions we should need during this journey; that I would take something to them to make presents with to the chiefs of the country through which we should go, and that we should return to pass the winter in our settlement; that if I should find the country to be good and fertile, several settlements

⁵Necklaces of wampum.