

1687-90. received. Thence they were led to a still larger cabin, a quarter of a league distant from the first, and set apart for public rejoicings. They found the floor spread with mats, on which they were made to sit down, the old men ranging themselves around. The Indians began by bringing them sagamity, and vegetables of all kinds; during the meal, and while each smoked his pipe, they conversed with them on some warlike projects.

The Provençal lived in another village, to which he took the French party, and there they were received nearly as they were in the first. Night coming on, their guide took them to his cabin, where they spent the night. The next day the old men of the first village came for them, and took them to the cabin where they had been feasted the day before. Here they obtained provisions in exchange for goods; but as there was not grain enough in the village for the wants of the French, Joutel sent his companions back to camp with the Provençal, and remained among the *Cenis* to get the rest of his supplies.

Another motive also induced him to remain some time among these people. Ascertaining that there were two more of *la Sale's* deserters among a neighboring nation, he hoped to derive more information from them than he had from the Provençal in regard to the *Micissippi*, and the route to be taken in order to reach the *Illinois*. He accordingly had these two men sent for, and one night, while he was lying in a cabin, but not asleep, he heard some one walking softly beside his bed; he looked, and, by the light of the fire in the lodge, perceived a man, perfectly naked, with a bow and two arrows, who, without a word, sat down beside him.<sup>1</sup>

He regarded him for some time, addressed him several questions, and received no answer. This silence excited his suspicion, and made him grasp his two pistols. Then the man rose, and sat down by the fire. Joutel followed,

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<sup>1</sup> Joutel, *Journal Historique*, pp. 214-6, 230-3.