

did not feel guilty persisted in the project of pushing on ^{1687-90.} to the Illinois, and that very day began to prepare in earnest for their departure.

The Indians had greatly exaggerated to Joutel the dangers to which he exposed himself by traversing so vast an extent of country, where he could not avoid meeting many unknown nations, nor expect a friendly reception. They used every argument to induce him and his party to remain with them, but they did not prevail. He begged them to furnish him guides, to whom he promised a large reward, and these they cheerfully afforded him. Heins gave Joutel all he asked; but the latter knew well that he must not ask much. This ruffian retained possession of almost all de la Sale's effects, and had donned his gold-laced scarlet coat; but, before giving any thing, he exacted of Mr. Cavelier an attestation, written in Latin, and signed by his hand,¹ exonerating him from all suspicion of complicity in his brother's murder; and it is, perhaps, solely on the faith of this document that some have published that he really took no part in that crime.²

Those who took up their march for the Illinois were seven in number, namely: Messrs. Cavelier, uncle and nephew; Father Anastasius; the Sieurs Joutel and de Marle; a young Parisian, named Barthelemy; and the pilot Teissier. Larchevêque, Mûnier, and Ruter, had pledged their word to join the party; but a spirit of libertinage retained them among the Cenis; and, to all appearance, the same fear that seized Heins made an impression on Larchevêque, still more guilty than he.³ We shall see in the sequel what became of these men, after we have followed the first party to France.

I shall not stop to describe their journey in detail. Joutel has made a very circumstantial journal, which contains nothing very interesting for our purpose. The only

¹ Joutel, *Journal Historique*, pp. 256-263.

² I do not find this stated.

³ Joutel, *Journal Historique*, p. 263. Father Anastasius (*Le Clercq*, ii., p. 347) says they were only six.