

1686. whole day in this duty; at nightfall, apparently, finding himself tired, he went ashore, with those who brought him the order, and built a fire. Then they fell asleep, without taking any precaution against the Indians, who seeing, by the fire, that they were Frenchmen, crept up during the night, killed the six men while sound asleep, and destroyed their boat.¹

Several of
the French
massacred
by Indians.

La Sale not seeing them return at the time appointed, went himself for them, and found the sad remains of their corpses, which wolves or other carnivorous beasts had almost completely devoured. He especially deplored his pilot, a skillful man, and soon had still greater reason to regret him. He then made the frigate come further up the bay, and sent on board all the provisions which he needed for the enterprize that he meditated, and left in it some of his people, whom he forbade to leave it without an order from him, or go ashore without an escort.²

This done, he embarked with twenty men in two canoes to cross the bay, and, as soon as he reached the other side, he sunk his two canoes in the water, and pursued his journey by land. After some days' march, he came to the banks of a fine river, which he called the Maligne; a little farther on, Duhaut, having loitered behind the rest, got lost, and before he knew it, found himself in sight of Fort St. Louis. As there was nothing improbable in his story, Joutel could not refuse to credit it, and contented himself with a close watch on Duhaut's movements.

About the middle of the month of March,³ de la Sale arrived at St. Louis in a most wretched plight with his brother, Mr. Cavelier, his nephew Moranget, and five or six men, having sent the rest to look for his frigate, as to which he felt some anxiety. Although he had not found what he

¹ Joutel, *Journal Historique*, pp. 121-3; Cavelier, *Relation*, p. 30.

² Duhaut's statement in Joutel, p. 123, makes La Salle send his brother, Cavelier, on board of the Belle; but Cavelier's account clashes.

³ Joutel, *Journal Historique*, pp. 123-136. The *Procès Verbal* says the 24th of March; Cavelier, *Relation du Voyage*, p. 29, says March 30, 1686; F. Anastasius (*Le Clercq*, ii., 398) says 31st.