

Letter from Father du Poisson, Missionary to
the Akensas, to Father Patouillet.

MY REVEREND FATHER,
Accept the greetings of a poor *Mississipian*, who has always esteemed you, and who, if you will permit him to say so, has loved you as well as has the best of your friends. The distance between the places in which Providence has put us both shall never weaken in me these feelings toward you, nor the gratitude which I have for the friendship that you were good enough to bear me during the time while we lived together.³⁵ The favor that I ask of you for the future is to think of me a little, to pray to God for me, and to give me from time to time welcome news of yourself. I am not yet sufficiently acquainted with the Country and with the customs of the Savages to give you information of them; I shall only tell you that the Mississippi presents to the traveler nothing beautiful, nothing exceptional, save itself: nothing mars it but the continuous forest on both sides, and the frightful solitude in which a person is during the whole voyage. Having, then, nothing peculiar to write to you of this Country, permit me to tell you what has happened to me since I have been at the post to which Providence has assigned me.

Two days after my arrival here, the Village of the *Sauthouis* sent two Savages to ask me if I would be pleased to have them come to chant the calumet