

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

ARE you curious, my dear friend, to learn the least curious thing in the world, and one which costs most to learn by experience,—that is, the manner of traveling on the *Mississippi*,—and what this country is, so vaunted and so decried in the same breath in France, and what kind of people live here? I have nothing else to tell you at present; if the account I am about to give of our journey be not interesting, ascribe it to the country; if it be too long, ascribe it to the desire that I have to talk with you.

During our stay at new Orleans, we saw peace and good order reëstablished by the care and the wisdom of the new Commandant-general. There had been two factions among the people who were at the head of affairs; one was called “la grande bande,” and the other, “la petite bande.” This division is done away with, and there is every reason to hope that the Colony will be more firmly established than ever. However that may be, as they were every day expecting the arrival of the pirogue which was to bring Fathers Tartarin and Doutreleau,⁴³ one of our Brethren, and the Nuns, this made us hasten our departure, so as to spare the Reverend Father de Beaubois additional inconvenience, although it was a bad season for traveling on the *Mississippi*. Besides, this Father was maintaining Brother Simon,—who,