

us hope that we would no longer sleep in the pirogue.

The *Sitimachas* dwelt at the lower end of the river when the Colony was founded; at that time, they killed a Missionary, Monsieur de Saint Côme. Monsieur de Bienville, who was commanding in the name of the King, avenged his death. The Map of Mississippi misplaces the tribe of the *Sitimachas*; this is not the only mistake that is to be found on it.⁴⁷ After these slight bits of Mississippi erudition, I return to our voyage.

On the 4th, we slept at *Bâton Rouge*; this place is named thus because a tree painted red by the Savages is there, which serves the Tribes that are above and below it as a boundary in hunting. Here we found the remains of a French habitation, abandoned on account of the wild animals—deer, rabbits, wild cats, and bears—that had laid waste everything. Four of our people went to hunt, and returned the next day without any other game than an owl.

On the 7th, we dined at the grant of Monsieur Mezières: this has the appearance of a habitation that has only beginning. We found there cabins, Negroes, and an honest rustic who did us neither good nor harm. At evening we encamped at *Pointe Coupée*, in front of the house of a habitant who received us very kindly. The rain delayed us the next day, and permitted us to make during the day but one league, to the dwelling of another habitant; his house, placed upon four piles, sheltered us indifferently well from a frightful storm. What need of both spiritual and temporal consolation these good people have!

On the 9th, we had scarcely embarked when there came from the woods an execrable odor; we were