

lamentations at not having any Missionary. Father Dumas said Mass the next day, very early in the morning, in the cabin of the Chief; and we were edified by the eagerness of some Frenchmen in improving this opportunity to approach the Sacraments.

On the 11th, we spent the night for the last time in the pirogue. On the 12th, we encamped at *Ecors blancs*, and on the 13th, at *Natchez*. We immediately paid our visit to the Reverend Father Philibert, a Capuchin, who is Curé there; he is a man of good sense, and did not take umbrage at seeing us, as his brethren had done at New Orleans; besides, he is a good man, and very zealous. Afterward, we went down to the edge of the water to make *our baires*.

The French *settlement* at Natchez is becoming important. Much tobacco is grown there which is considered the best in the Country. The situation of the town is very high; from it the *Mississipi* can be seen winding as if in an abyss; there are continuous hills and valleys. The land of the concessions is more level and of better quality; the excessive heat prevented us from going to them, or to the savage Village.

The Village is distant only a league from the French; this is the only, or almost the only, Tribe among whom is found any kind of Government and Religion. They maintain a perpetual fire, and they know by tradition that, if it happen to be extinguished, they must go to the *Tonicas* to relight it. The Chief has great authority over the people of his Tribe, and he makes them obey him. It is not so with most of the other Tribes—they have Chiefs who are Chiefs only in name; every one is master,