

dismal valley, which serves as the bed of the Ohio.' At various places on the route, Céloron buries at the mouths of rivers leaden plates, whereon are engraved inscriptions which, in accordance with French custom, claim that region for his government. Near the present Pittsburg, the French encounter some English traders, whom they order to quit the country. Bonnécamps describes with care several trees peculiar to that region, as also the rattlesnake. On August 8, the party reach Chiningué (or Logstown), an important Iroquois village below Pittsburg. The savages there are angry and suspicious; but Céloron's boldness and watchfulness repress any hostile attempt on their part. After holding a council with them, and ordering the English traders there to depart, he resumes his voyage,—which continues with but little incident to the mouth of the Great Kanawha River. In the vicinity of that stream, the Frenchmen first encounter the buffalo, although only in small herds. Bonnécamps says that he had been told in Canada that these animals would be found along their march by hundreds; and he thus comments thereon: "This is not the first time when I have experienced that hyperbole and exaggeration were figures familiar to the Canadians." Advancing to the Scioto River, Céloron sends Joncaire and another officer as envoys to the Shawnee village there: but the savages greet them with bullets, seize them as prisoners, and would put them to death save for the mediation of a friendly Iroquois. At Scioto, Céloron erects a fort, holds a council with the savages, and orders away more English traders. Departing thence, the Frenchmen proceed to the mouth of the Great Miami;