

persons, nearly all of whom are baptized; but the brandy sold or given to them "has ruined this mission, and has caused the majority of them to abandon our holy Religion. . . . The greatest good that we can do among them consists in the baptism of dying children." Vivier and Guyenne reside at Cahokia, Watrin at Kaskaskia, Meurin at Peoria, and Baudouin and Morand at New Orleans. The outlying Southern missions have been abandoned, owing to the disturbances among those tribes, and between them and their white neighbors. The influence of the English traders has wrought much harm. "The English are ever ready to preach controversy. Would a poor Savage be in a position to make a choice?"

Vivier describes the Mississippi River, and the difficulties attending its navigation. "There is only one Pilot who is accustomed to the place and knows it thoroughly." The name Mississippi ("great river") has been "usurped from the Missouri," which, before its junction with the other, is the larger, more rapid, and clearer of the two. The French habitants are settled on both sides of the river for the space of fifteen leagues below New Orleans. The population of that city does not exceed 1,200 persons. Vivier describes the climate and agriculture of that region. Notwithstanding the varied products of their farms, "the forests are at present the chief and surest source of revenue for many habitants," and several sawmills have been erected. As there is no stone in this region, bricks are manufactured there and used for building. Flour, pork, beef, and other products are obtained from the upper valley of the great river. The