

of fort Chartres then sent them to New Orleans; they all were people with good appetites. Monsieur de Volsey—who, in the capacity of commandant, directed the journey—was careful, every evening after landing, to go into the woods to hunt. The trouble that he took was not fruitless; accompanied by some other hunters, he killed some bears and wild cattle which supplemented the too moderate provisions.

Monsieur de Volsey had another care. In this winter season, considerable time was necessary to embark and disembark so great a number of slaves,—old men, women, and children; in the evening, upon leaving the boat, they had to climb up the banks of the river, which were high, steep, and slippery, in danger of falling into the Mississippi and drowning there. After having gained the top of the bank, they had to go into the woods with which this river is everywhere bordered, to seek a suitable place in which to encamp; often they did not find one until after they had cleared such a place, all bristling with thickets, brambles, and squine.⁴⁸ It was necessary also to provide a stock of wood sufficient to light and keep up seven or eight great fires during the night: finally, they had to work to protect themselves from the cold by putting up tents, which were very necessary in the most severe season of the year. The Jesuits, very opportunely, had provided themselves with some tents, for themselves and for their slaves,—in the seizure of their furniture, they had been permitted to take this precaution; Monsieur de Volsey, too, always had the kindness to grant the time that was necessary for all these proceedings.

The voyage, which might have been very long,