

lasted only twenty-seven days, because the weather was not so bad as it usually is at that season. The Jesuits found means to say mass every Sunday and every feast-day. In this journey, which covers about four hundred leagues, one finds only two posts established,—that of Arkansas and that of Pointe Coupée; for the post of the Germans, which is too near the town, is not reckoned here. Passing to Arkansas, a village about one hundred and fifty leagues from Illinois, Monsieur Labaret d'Estrépy, commandant of that post, gave the Jesuits a gracious and honorable welcome; and at Pointe Coupée, Monsieur d'Esmazilières, the captain commanding that post, treated them in the same way. But, above all, Reverend Father Irénée, a Capuchin, who at the same place has charge of a parish of twelve or thirteen leagues in extent, did for their reception all that he could have done for the dearest of his brethren. Finally, at seven or eight leagues from New Orleans, they reached the estate of Monsieur de Maccarty, former lieutenant of the King in that city, who by his kind attentions recalled to their remembrance the benevolence he had always shown at Illinois, where he had been major-commandant-general. After they arrived in the town, he gave them several other tokens of his friendship.

But, on departing from that estate, they found themselves in great perplexity. They saw that they were about to enter New Orleans, and they did not know where they could lodge; they were unable to enter their old house, knowing well that it was sold and occupied by other masters; and they no longer dared to count upon their old acquaintances. The Providence of God made provision for this need.