

one hundred leagues, we ran it in less than six days. Here we remained some time to repair what had been damaged in the falls and carrying places; and here I concentrated two pair of colours, and interred two soldiers who were caried off by fatigue and illness.

Michilimakinac is a post advantageously situated for trade, with three great lakes—Michigan, which is three hundred leagues in circuit; Huron, which is full three hundred and fifty leagues in circumference; and Lake Superior, which is full five hundred leagues round, all three navigable for the largest sort of boats, and the two first, separated only by a small strait, which has water sufficient for small vessels, which can sail, without any obstacle, over Lake Erie, to the post of Niagara.

The 10th of August, we left Michilimakinac, and entered Lake Michigan. As we had contrary winds for two days, our Indians had time to hunt, and they brought in two elks and a caribou, and were generous enough to offer us a part. We made some difficulties in receiving their favor, but they forced us, and told us that since we had shared with them the fatigues of the journey, it was just we should partake of the comforts it had procured, and that they should not esteem themselves men if they did not act thus to their brethren. This answer, which was spoken in French, affected me sensibly. What humanity among those we call savages! and how many should we find in Europe to whom that title might be more properly applied!

The generosity of our Indians deserved a lively sense of gratitude from us. Several times, when we had not been able to find places for hunting, we had been obliged to live on salt meat. The flesh of the elks and caribou removed the distaste we began to entertain for our ordinary food.

The *original*, or elk of Canada, is as large as a horse, and has horns as long as those of a stag, but thicker and more inclining over the back, the tail short, and his skin a mixture of light gray and reddish black. The caribou is not so tall and shaped more like the ass, but equals the stag in swiftness.