

cates with the Mississippi. We did not find any Indians, and as we had no orders to advance farther, we employed some days in laying waste the country, to deprive the enemy of the means of subsistence. The country hereabouts is beautiful, the land fertile, the game plenty and good, the nights were very cold, but the days extremely hot.

After this expedition, if such a useless march deserves that name, we prepared to return to Montreal, from which we were now four hundred and fifty leagues distant. In our passage, we destroyed the fort at La Baye, because being so near the enemy, it would not afford a secure retreat to the French who must be left as a garrison. The Fox Indians, irritated by our ravages, and convinced that we should scarcely make a second visit into a country where we were uncertain of meeting with any inhabitants, might have blockaded the fort, and perhaps have taken it. When we arrived at Michilimakinac, our commander gave permission to every one to go where he pleased. We had now three hundred leagues to travel, and our provisions would have fallen short if we had not exerted ourselves to make a quick passage. The winds favored us in crossing Lake Huron; but we had continual rains while we were on the river of the French, while crossing Lake Michigan, and on the river Matawan, which ceased as we entered the river of the Outawahs. I cannot describe the swiftness with which we descended this great river, of which imagination only can form an idea. As I was in a canoe with some men whom experience had taught how to descend the rapids, I was not one of the last at Montreal, where I arrived the 28th of September, and remained there till the spring, when I received orders to proceed to Quebec.