

those whom they should see on the road of the reason of my journey.

Taking the road to the river la Roche,<sup>1</sup> I stopped with Sr Lisse the 31<sup>st</sup> [December] to inquire concerning the winter quarters, both of the Indians and the french and some puant chiefs came along to whom I spoke and left them two belts hoping to conceal other presents that I will not mention here for fear of wearying the reader.

I left to Sieur Lessé a belt with a runner for the ajovoin, and another for Milwaki.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> of January, 1778, I continued my journey to the river la Roche, carrying out my orders on the way up to the 14<sup>th</sup> of it [January] and I fell upon a lake near 2 villages, whose inhabitants, one to the number of 100 puants, the other 200 Sakis,<sup>2</sup> had left for winter quarters, and the 15<sup>th</sup> I arrived at the river la Roche where there was no one. I was compelled to seek them taking the road as well as I could to prairie du chien, and at all the little lodges I met with I announced your plans, as far as the prairie du chien where I was awaited by a part of each nation who were meanwhile in winter quarters and who had very little to eat.

The 27<sup>th</sup> I arrived at prairie du chien at Sieur Lese's where I obtained information as to winter quarters.

I dispatched Runners to the Scioux to bury the Sakies and Renard<sup>3</sup> who were wintering below the Mississippi and also to the Traders that were with them so that they might aid me in sustaining my belt.

It was necessary also to ask for food and clothing for a part of the families of those who had been in Canada, as they had left their things at la baye and were sick tired and nearly frozen.

I took refreshments and left this place the 30<sup>th</sup> to go among the Scioux of the lakes and to fulfill my mission on the way.

The 12<sup>th</sup> [February] I appeared at the River S<sup>re</sup> Croix

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<sup>1</sup> Rock river.—ED.

<sup>2</sup> Sacs.—ED.

<sup>3</sup> Foxes.—ED.