

Region make it a very agreeable one; the Climate is as temperate as in Touraine,¹ and the Winter (according to the Savages) does not last more than six Weeks. It is a charming sight to see that River, bordered with an infinite number of apple-trees, with abundance of plum-trees of every kind, of Chestnut and Walnut trees, and the Hazel-bushes of France; and to find there the Vine, one of its finest ornaments, whose Grapes are fairly large and good. At intervals we come upon very large meadows, both dry and wet, full of grass that grows to the height of over three feet. They are broken only by fruit Trees, or by hard-wood Timber of great height and of various kinds, such as the butternut and walnut, red and white Oak, Poplar, Basswood, Elm, Ash, and Cottonwood. This diversity continues inland, where we have taken the precaution to have the soil examined; it is so good that it leads us to hope that its fertility will not refuse to the hand of the Careful Husbandman what Nature itself produces so abundantly.

These Woods and vast prairies supply food to an immense number of Oxen, Cows, Stags, Does, Deer, Bears, and Turkeys, which have been of great Assistance to us in providing Subsistence for our Soldiers and Voyageurs, who were occupied in building and whose provisions gave out just as they arrived. Four or five Hunters have hitherto Sufficed to support them, notwithstanding the great Heat, which made them lose a portion of their meat. This will give an idea of the various kinds of animals to be found on this Continent. In the prairies, in Lake Ste. Claire, and in the River, wherein there are several Islands, there are great quantities of Game, consisting of pheasants, Quail, Rail, red Partridges, Cranes, Swans, Bustards, Ducks of various kinds, Teal, and Pigeons.

If we continue to maintain this Establishment, it will be a means of preventing the English from coming to take possession of it, to deprive us of the Trade with the Nations up above; of holding the Iroquois in check; and of maintaining our Allies in their duty. It will be much easier to Frenchify the

¹Touraine was a province in the west central part of France, its mean latitude 47° N.; it was watered by the Loire river.—Ed.