

it has since been shipped to France. I have not learned the result of this experiment. That mine is located at the beginning of a long range of hills which border the river. Boats could go up to the edge of the mine; the place where the ore is obtained is a green earth, a foot and a half in thickness. The soil above it is stiff and hard as a rock, and blackened and scorched like coal by the vapor that issues from the mine. We could scratch the copper with a knife. Upon those hills there are no trees. If that mine is a good one, a great traffic in the ore could be carried on, since the hills contain that same soil for more than ten leagues. According to the observations that we made there, there seems to be a continual fog over those hills, even in the finest weather. After twenty-two days of toil, we returned to our fort, to which the Sioux (from that tribe of Savages who had pillaged the Canadians who came to our fort) brought to us their merchandise of peltries; they had more than four hundred beaver robes. These robes are made of nine skins sewed together; Monsieur Le Sueur bought these, as well as many other pelts, for which he traded with them during a week. He obliged their chiefs to come to lodge with the Savages near the fort. It was with difficulty that they could agree to this, because that tribe, who are very numerous, are always wandering, and live only by hunting; and when they have remained a week in one place, it becomes necessary for them to go more than ten leagues thence in order to find game enough to live upon. They have, however, a place of residence where they gather fruits, which are very different from those on the lower part of the Mississippi river—such as cherries, which grow in clusters, as do our grapes in France; atouas, a fruit which resembles our strawberries, but is larger, and square in shape; and artichokes,<sup>1</sup> which resemble our truffles. There are also more different species of trees than are found on the lower river—for instance, of the wild cherry,

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<sup>1</sup>Atoka (atoua): the Algonquian name of the cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*). "Artichokes" probably refers to the tuberous roots of a species of sunflower (*Helianthus tuberosus*), indigenous to North America, and often used as food by the aborigines; it is popularly known as "Jerusalem artichoke."—Ed.