

tree, it descends backward, as a man would; and while it descends the hunters fire their guns at the beast. This is very dangerous hunting, for although the animal may be wounded, sometimes with three or four gunshots, it will still hasten to attack the first persons whom it encounters, and in an instant rends them, with a single blow of teeth and claws. There are bears as large as a coach-horse, and so strong that they can easily break a tree as large as a man's thigh. The Sioux tribes carry on bear-hunting extensively; they use the flesh for their food, and trade the skins to the Canadian French. In exchange for these, we sell to them at high prices the wares that we carry thither. Tobacco especially (that is, Brazilian tobacco) was advanced to the rate of a hundred écus the livre; two small horn-handled knives, or four lead bullets, were then on the scale of ten écus in exchange for their merchandise of pelts; and other articles on like terms.

At the beginning of May, we launched our shallop on the water, and loaded it with that green earth that we had taken from the mines, and with pelts from our trading, of which we brought away three canoe-loads. Monsieur Le Sueur, before departing, held council with Monsieur d'Eraque, a Canadian gentleman, and the three chiefs of the Sioux, who were brothers; to those chiefs Monsieur Le Sueur said that, since he was obliged to go down the river to the sea, he would beg them to remain on peaceable terms with Monsieur d'Eraque, whom he left as governor of Fort L'Huillier, with twelve Frenchmen. Monsieur Le Sueur then made the Savages a considerable present, asking them not to abandon the Frenchmen; after that, we embarked, he and the twelve men whom he had chosen to go down the river with him to the sea. At his departure Monsieur Le Sueur promised Monsieur d'Eraque and the twelve Frenchmen who remained with him to guard the fort to send them ammunition from the Illinois,¹ as soon as he arrived there. This he did; for when he arrived there he despatched a canoe,

¹ Apparently a reference to the settlement of the Kaskaskias (an Illinois tribe), who had removed their village to the Mississippi river in the summer of 1700; a French trading-post also was soon established there.—Ed.