

sourites,¹ who kept him a prisoner; but he very adroitly escaped from them. He had a remarkably fine Horse, and the *Mis-sourites* enjoyed seeing him perform feats of Horsemanship, in which he was very skilful; he profited by their curiosity to free himself from their hands. One day when he was caracoling before them, he gradually increased his distance from them; then suddenly using both spurs, he quickly vanished from their sight. As no other Prisoner was taken, we have no definite knowledge, either from what part of New Mexico those Spaniards had come, or what their intentions were; for what I told you at the beginning of this account was founded only upon the reports of Savages, who perhaps desired to court our favor by making known that they had, through this defeat, rendered us a great service. All the articles brought to me were from the spoils of the Chaplain who had been slain; and there was also found on him a Book of Prayers, which I have not seen; it was probably his Breviary. I bought the Pistol; the Shoes were worth nothing; and the Savage was never willing to part with the Ointment, having taken into his head that this was a sovereign remedy against all kinds of ills. I was curious to know how he intended to use it, and he answered me that it was sufficient to swallow a little of the medicine, and whatever Malady attacked a person would be immediately healed; he did not assert, however, that he had yet proved this by experience, and I advised him not to do so. We begin here to find the Savages exceedingly stupid; they are far from being as intelligent, or at least as open-minded, as those who have had more intercourse with us.

On the following day, a great many of the *Sakis* came to the house of the Missionary, with whom I was lodged, and entreated me to be present at a sort of council, which they desired to hold. I consented to do so; and when all the people had taken their places, the Chief placed a Collar on the ground before me; then the Orator began to speak, begging me in the name of all to induce the King² to take them under his protection, and to purify

¹ A Siouan tribe, formerly located on the Missouri river.—ED.

² Those Savages always pronounce the name of the King in French.—