

country, built some Canoes which resembled those of the Iroquois. The men whom the Pouteouatemis had seen at Michilimakinak were really Iroquois; but they had feared falling into the hands of the Pouteouatemis quite as much as the latter had feared them. The Iroquois, while fleeing, fell into an ambuscade of forty Sauteurs, who carried them away to the Sauteur Village; they had come from a raid against the Chaouanons [Shawnese], near Carolina, and had brought with them a captive from that tribe, whom they were going to burn. The Sauteurs set him at liberty, and enabled him to return to the Bay by entrusting him to the Sakis. This man gave them marvelous notions of the South Sea, from which his Village was distant only five days' journey—near a great river which, coming from the Iolinois, discharges its waters into that Sea.¹ The tribes of the Bay sent him home with much merchandise, urging him to persuade his tribesmen to come and visit them.

These Peoples held several councils, to deliberate whether they should go down to Montreal; they hesitated at first, because they had so few Beavers. As the Savages give everything to their mouths, they preferred to devote themselves to hunting such wild beasts as could furnish subsistence for their families, rather than seek Beavers, of which there were not enough; they preferred the needs of life to those of the State. Nevertheless, they reflected that if they allowed the Frenchmen to go away without themselves going down to trade, it might happen that the latter would thereafter attach themselves to some other Nations; or, if they should afterward go to Montreal, the Governor would feel resentment against them because they had not escorted these Frenchmen thither. They decided that they would go with the Frenchmen; preparations for this were accordingly made, and a solemn feast was held; and on the eve of their departure a volley of musketry was fired in the Village. Three men sang incessantly, all night long, in a Cabin, invoking their Spirits from time to time. They began with the song of Michabous; then they came to that of the God

¹A reference to the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi river—then, however, supposed to flow into the Pacific Ocean, which was called South Sea.—Ed.