

to assure you, Monsieur, that without the Prisoners, we should never have seen the Renards, because none of our savages knew what part of the Country They were in, And because the Kickapous their allies who had Followed me to the number of 40 had caused Us to lengthen our journey so that we had our backs turned to them. Our Savages perceived this and warned me. I caused the Prisoners to be told that if they did not lead me straight to the Renards, I would have them tied to the Stake to be burned.

We crossed the Mississipy. I told the Iroquois that we must procure provisions. The Prisoners thought the same because the Buffalo were moving away and we ran the risk of undergoing a long fast. Our savages would not load themselves with dried meat so that they might advance better, for they thought that they were close to the Enemy. On the following day, we began to take only one meal per Day—and a very inferior one at that. On the 12th of March, we reached the Renards' fort where we found Nobody, and we were kept there by the intense cold without any food for two Days. I sent out a reconnoitering party who reported that they had seen four recent Camping-grounds and had followed the tracks. Two Days afterward They came to tell me that they had seen smoke. I sent them back to make sure that they had not been deceived. They assured me that the Report was true. We marched during a portion of the night and crossed several Rivers with the Water Up to our Waists. We stationed ourselves behind a hill while waiting for Daylight, wrapped up in our robes, greatly fatigued, wet through, and very hungry. At Daybreak we reached a Wood bordering on a River. The Savages who wished to have the glory of arriving first and of attacking these four Cabins

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roots that grow plentifully on its banks. The "river without a fork" (*Rivière sans fourche*) is the Des Moines, as is evident from the succeeding document. This river called the *Moingona*, from an Indian tribe of that name found near it by the explorers of the 17th century, is prominent on early maps, where it is laid down with a straight course, without affluents, and frequently identified with Lahontan's "*Rivière Longue*."—Ed.