

of the *Ayous* in order to penetrate more easily into the depths of the surrounding country.

On October 12, somewhere near the river of the *Kikapous*,¹ we found other camping places, traces of men, women, and children; and on the fifteenth, we saw a number of animals running along the shore who seemed to be flying from hunters. Great fires that were lighted and the noise of some gun-shots led me to believe that the enemy was not far off. For greater safety I deemed it expedient to travel at night; but, as the waters were very low, our birch-bark canoes were in danger of being broken at any moment.

On the 16th, at eight o'clock in the morning some *Kikapous* discovered us and, leaving their pirogues, they ran to the village situated on a small river three leagues from the Mississippi. As we approached the mouth of this little river² we saw a number of savages coming by land and in canoes with the apparent intention of barring our way. We at once loaded our twenty five guns, resolved to defend ourselves stoutly. They called out to us from afar: "What fear ye, my brothers? The Renards are far from here. We are *Kikapous* and *Mascoutins* and have no evil design." I sent two Frenchmen and the interpreter to whom they said that their village was only three leagues from where we were; that they were in want of everything; that they

¹The river of the *Ayous* (*Iowas*) and the river of the *Kikapous*, simply mean the rivers on which those tribes dwelt. The former was that now called *Wapsipinicon* River in Iowa. The river of the *Kikapous* was *Rock River*, Illinois, upon which was a large permanent village of that nation.—Ed.

²There seems to be no basis for the identification of this "little river," other than that it was known as "*Rivière aux Bœufs*" and was three days below *Rock River*. Possibly it was the present *Skunk River* in Iowa, just above the *Des Moines*. In the official report of the expedition of 1734, the *Fox fort* on the *Wapsipinicon* River is said to be not far from where *De Boucherville* and *Guignas* were captured. *Ferland, Cours d' Histoire du Canada* (Quebec, 1865), ii, p. 141, identifies this "*Rivière aux Bœufs*" with *Buffalo Creek*, *Jones County*, Iowa. This could not have been the spot where the French were arrested, since *Buffalo Creek* does not reach the *Mississippi River*.—Ed.