

would be glad to have us stay a day or two with them and to trade with us. But seeing that in spite of their fine promises we were making ready to proceed on our way, they surrounded us with their twenty-five pirogues, calling out as loud as they could: "Frenchmen, do not resist; we have no evil design in stopping you." At the same time numbers of them embarked in our canoes although the chiefs cried out: "Gently, young men." They dragged us to their village where we thought the greatest favor we could expect would be to be plundered. Far, however, from taking away our arms, they requested us on our arrival to salute the fort with a discharge of musketry which we did with fairly good grace. Afterwards they held a council and came to the conclusion to lodge us in the cabin of Ouiskouba whose relatives had just been killed by the French acting with the Illinois. All our baggage was carried into this cabin; Father Guignas was placed upon a mat and upon a very fine bear skin;¹ an equally honorable place was prepared for me opposite the Reverend Father; we were regaled with deer flesh. We had no lack of company throughout the night as a great many of these barbarians had never seen a Frenchman and were attracted by curiosity. Ouiskouba and several chiefs who were hunting in the neighborhood were sent for.

On the following day the elders entered our cabin and spoke to Father Guignos as follows: "You *Black gowns*² used formerly to maintain peace amongst the nations; but now you are greatly changed. Not long ago one of your comrades was seen leading a party and waging a bloody war against us." These elders referred to Father Dumas, the chaplain of Monsieur Desliettes' army.³

¹ An Indian mode of showing honor.—Ed.

² This was the Indian appellation for the Jesuit missionaries, who wore their black cassocks into the wilderness.—Ed.

³ Jean Dumas was born at Lyons, France, Sept. 10, 1696, and entered the Jesuit order at the age of fifteen. In 1726, he was sent to Louisiana, and in 1727 assigned to the Illinois mission. Some time before 1740 he returned to France, and taught Hebrew at Lyons. He died in 1770.—Ed.