

go to see them they often make their wives and children fast so as to have something wherewith to regale the French.

Polygamy is practised to such an extent amongst them that they sometimes have as many as ten wives, whom they marry only after buying them from their fathers, according to the custom of the savages; consequently they treat them as slaves.

The young men are not obliged to go hunting; they dance and that is their sole occupation until they are married.

The best road that can be taken to go to the Scioux country is to pass by *la Baie*; by the River of the Renards; then the portage of the *Ouisconsins* is made and then one enters the Mississippi, which one ascends to *Lake Pepin*, where we have built our fort.

From Montreal to the Scioux country the distance is not more than 600 leagues. Going down from the Scioux to the Illinois country on the Mississippi I count about 300 leagues, and from the Illinois to the sea 400 leagues. The Mississippi can float great vessels for 750 leagues without coming to a waterfall. In ascending this great river from the mouth of the Ouisconsin to Sault St. Antoine (which is a distance of a hundred leagues) we find a number of islands, and on both sides are mountains which prevent the waters of the Mississippi from overflowing.

We, the undersigned, who have been witnesses of all that is mentioned in this relation, certify that it is accurate and true and that we owe our lives to the author through his labors, fatigues and experience.

In testimony whereof we have signed: CAMPEAU, *blacksmith*; MÉNARD, *interpreter*; DUMAIS, *captain of militia*; RÉAUME, *interpreter*; BOISELLE, *voyageur*.