

store-keeper, who prefer the service and interests of the king to their own.

The Missouri River empties into the Missisipi five leagues above Paincourt.²⁴ At the confluence of those rivers is located the Spanish fort of San Carlos el Principe at the order and arrangement of Governor Don Antonio de Ulloa in order that the illicit trade might be avoided and to prevent the English from establishing their trade in that part with the tribes comprehended in that distance.

In the short time of my residence in that post, there came to hold discussions the tribes of the Osages, Ayoua, Kikapu, Mastasten, Pou, Putatami, Utoa, Putchicagu, Renad,²⁵ and others of the vicinity attracted both by the novelty of the arrival of a new commandant in order to receive their present which it is necessary by established custom to give them for that reason, and those with which the traders impose on them, being assured that they are indispensable to them, and in order to benefit the habitants of the settlements with the goods and products of the hunt. And although the latter are benefitted, it is the king who maintains the expense of the Indians' maintenance during their stay in the village, and he makes no profit from it. Since Don Antonio de Ulloa knew this, he ordered me to arrange for the gathering of the tribes for any matter, as well as the distribution of the annual presents, and the discussion etc., in the above-mentioned fort of San Carlos, where, as it was distant

²⁴ Paincourt (short of bread) was a popular nickname for the village of St. Louis. Founded in the spring of 1764 by Pierre Laclède and Pierre Chouteau as a trading post for the Missouri River country, for which they had received a license, St. Louis grew rapidly by the immigration of French settlers from east of the Mississippi. When Fort Chartres was surrendered to the British (October, 1765), the French commandant retired with his garrison to St. Louis, and there established a temporary government, which continued until the Spanish took permanent possession in 1770.—Ed.

²⁵ Piernas was at Fort San Carlos el Principe less than two months (March-May, 1769). The tribes whose representatives visited him were, Osage, Iowa, Kickapoo, Mascoutin, Potawatomi (Pou and Putatami), Ottawa, Piankashaw, and Renards (Foxes).—Ed.