

## N U M B E R II.

JOSEPH la France is now about 36 Years old: He was born at *Missilimakinac*, and was 5 Years old when his Mother died. His Father then took him with him to *Quebec* to learn *French*, where he staid the Winter, about 6 Months. He says, as well as he can remember, *Quebec* was about a League long, and Half a League broad, and had 4 or 5000 Men in Garrison, it being about the Time of the Peace of *Utrecht*. He returned from thence with his Father, and lived with him until his Death, which happened when he was 14 Years old. After his Death, when he was about 16, he went down to *Monreal*, to sell what Furs and Peltry his Father had left him; and then returned to *Missilimakinac*, where he traded and hunted in the neighbouring Countries until he was 27 Years old; in which Time he went one Year to *Mississipi*. He went by the *Illinese* Lake, which he calls *Michigan*. At the Bottom of the Lake there was a *French* Fort, in which there were 15 *French* in Garrison, about 11 Years ago. The River upon which it is built, he calls *Saint Joseph*; it is very rapid. He passed by *Ouisconsin* to the *Mississipi*, and went down it as far as the River *Missouris*; and returned by the same Route. In his Return he passed by the Bay of *L'Our qui Dort*, so called from a Heap of Sand upon a Point which resembles a Bear sleeping. When he was 28 Years old, he went with a Parcel of Furs, with 8 *Iroquese*, in 2 Canoes, cross the Lake of *Hurons*, by the Bay of *Sakinak*, to the Straights of *Errie*, which they passed in the Night for fear of being stopped by the *French*, who have a Village or little Fort there, in which he believes there may be 100 Houses. He from thence passed through Lake *Errie* to the Fall of *Niagara*, and the *Iroquese* carried his Canoes and Furs down by the Fall to Lake *Frontenac*, for which he gave them 100 Beavers, and thence went to *Oswega*; but was not within the Fort or Town, the *Iroquese* selling his Furs for him; and then returned by the same Way to *Missilimakinac*. He says the *French* have a Fort on the North Side of the Fall of *Niagara*, betwixt the Lakes *Errie* and *Frontenac*, about 3 Leagues within the Woods from the Fall, in which they keep 30 Soldiers, and have about as many more with them as Servants and Assistants; these have a small Trade with the Indians for Meat, Ammunition, and Arms.

About 6 Years ago he went again to *Monreal* with Two Indians, and a considerable Cargo of Furs, where he found the Governor of *Canada*, who wintered there. He made him a Present of Martens Skins, and also 1000 Crowns, for a Conge or Passport to have a Licence to trade next Year: But in Spring he would neither give him his Conge nor his Money, under Pretence that he had sold Brandy to the Indians, which is prohibited, and threatened him with Imprisonment for demanding his Money; so that he was obliged to steal away with his Two Indians, and what Goods he had got in Exchange for his Furs, with his 3 Canoes. *Monreal*, he says, is about 60 Leagues above *Quebec*. It is a large Town, about a League and a Half in Circuit within the Walls, which are 15 Feet high, of Lime and Stone. They have 300 Men in Garrison. This is the only considerable Town in *Canada* besides *Quebec*; for *Trois Rivieres* is but a Village. He says, they have a Fort the Natives call *Catarakui* Fort, 80 Leagues above *Monreal*, near Lake *Frontenac*, in which they keep a Garrison of 40 Men, as the Indians informed him, and about as many more Inhabitants. The River *St. Lau-*

*rence*, from thence to *Monreal*, is so full of Water-falls, and so rapid, that there is the utmost Danger and Difficulty in going by Water, and no going so far by Land through the Woods; so that no Trade can be carried on that Way but at a great Expence.

They have no other fortified Places in *Canada*, but one Fort called *Champli*, near *Champlain* Lake, upon the *English* and *Iroquese* Frontiers, in which they have 20 Men in Garrison.

He was above 40 Days in going up the River, from *Monreal* to the Lake *Nepising*, which is at the Source of that River which he calls *St. Laurence*, and not the River which passes through the Lakes; but *La Hontan* calls it the River *Ousouas*. He had 36 Land-Carriages before he got to *Nepising*. He was but 18 Days in going down it to *Monreal*. He says, the River *Nepising* runs from the same Lake into the Lake of *Hurons*. This is what *La Hontan* calls *French* River; it is 20 Leagues in its Course, and had Three Falls upon it, which they descended in Two Days; and with a fair Wind they might go from thence to *Missilimakinac* in Two Days more along the Islands. Upon his Return he exchanged his Goods for Furs, and resolved to try his Fortune once more to *Monreal*; and make his Peace with the Governor. He says, when he left *Missilimakinac*, there were but 2 Men with the Governor in Garrison, which was only to open and shut the Gates. He says, that of late the Trade from thence to *Monreal* is so much lessened upon account of the *English* supplying the Indians much cheaper and better, by an easy Navigation through the Lakes to *Niagara*, that there do not go above 12 Canoes in a Year, and those Licences are generally given to superannuated Officers; the Avarice and Injustice of the Governor of *Canada* has likewise disgusted the Natives.

After having got a Parcel of Furs, he, with Two Indian Slaves, and 3 Canoes, passed the Lake *Huron*, and entered the River *Nepising*, and went up it several Leagues; but at a Turn in the River he met 9 Canoes, in which was the Governor's Brother-in-law, with 30 Soldiers, and as many more to manage the Canoes, who seized him and his Furs, and Slaves, as a Run-away without a Passport, and would have carried him away to *Monreal*; but he made his Escape into the Woods in the Night, with only his Gun, and Five Charges of Powder and Ball, and passed by Land alone through the Woods on the North Side of *Huron* Lake until he met with some of the *Missada* Indians, who live there, having been Six Weeks in his Journey, travelling behind the Mountains, on the North Side of the Lake, in a Marshy Country, abounding with Beavers, and thus returned to *Saut St. Marie*; and having lost all, determined to go to the *English* in *Hudson's Bay*, by passing through the Indian Nations West of the Upper Lake, until he should arrive, by these Lakes and Rivers which run Northwards, at *York* Fort, on *Nelson* River.

He set out in the beginning of Winter 1739 upon this Journey and Voyage, and hunted and lived with the Indians his Relations, the *Sauteurs*, on the North Side of the Upper Lake, where he was well acquainted, having hunted and traded thereabouts for Fourteen Years. He says, the Upper Lake has Three Islands near the North Shore, about 3 Leagues from the Shore; they are about 3 or 4 Leagues each in Circumference. One of them he calls *Ile du Lignon*; they

Mississipi

X  
Lauriers