

We took the elevation of the pole, which was thirty-three degrees, fortyfive minutes. Although we used all the precaution we could, we found ourselves on a sudden in the middle of their camp, which took up both sides of the river. The Illinois being much terrified, though they were several thousand men, tendered us the calumet of peace, and we offered them ours. Mr. la Salle presented them with Martinico tobacco, and some axes. He told them, "He knew how necessary their corn was to them; but that being reduced to an unspeakable necessity when he came to their village, and seeing no probability to subsist, he had been forced to take some corn from their habitations without their leave. That he would give them axes and other things, in lieu of it, if they could spare it; and if they could not, they were free to take it again." The savages considered our proposals, granted our demands, and made an alliance with us.

Some days after, Nikanape, brother to the most considerable man among them, who was then absent, invited us to a great feast. And before we sat down, told us, "That he had invited us not so much to give us a treat, as to endeavour to dissuade us from the resolution we had taken to go down to the sea by the great river Mississippi." He said, "That the banks of that river were inhabited by barbarous and bloody nations, and that several had perished upon the same enterprize." Our Interpreter told him by order of Mr. la Salle, "That we were much obliged to him for his advice; but that the difficulties and dangers he had mentioned, would make our enterprize still more glorious. That we