

made by the Rains; so that it was accessible only one By-way. We cast a Line, to join those two natural Ditches, and made the Eminence steep on every Side, supporting the Earth with great pieces of Timber. By the 1st of *March*, our Fort was near finish'd, and we Named it *Crevecaur*, because the Desertion of our Men, with the Difficulties we labour'd under, had almost broke our Hearts. We also built a Bark, for the continuance of our Discoveries; it was Forty two Foot long by the Keel, and was in such Forwardness, that we shou'd have been in a condition to Sail in a very short time, had we been provided with all our Necessaries; but hearing nothing of the Ship *Griffin*, and therefore wanting the Rigging, and other Tackle we expected by her, we found our selves in great Perplexity, and did not know what to do in this sad Juncture, being above five Hundred Leagues from Fort *Frontenac*, whither it was almost impossible to return at that Time, because the Snow made Travelling very dangerous by Land, and the Ice made it impracticable to our Canoes.

Mr. *La Salle* did now no longer doubt but his beloved *Griffin* was lost; but neither this nor the other Difficulties dejected him, his great Courage buoy'd him up, and he resolv'd with Three Men to return to Fort *Frontenac* by Land, notwithstanding the Snow, and the unspeakable Dangers attending so great a Journey, and to bring along with him the necessary Things to proceed on our Discovery; while I, with two Men, shou'd go in a Canoe to the River *Mississippi*, to get the Friendship of the Nations Inhabiting the Banks thereof; then calling his Men together, he told them, that he wou'd leave Mr. *Tonti*