

such excesses as those into which they had fallen with regard to the five men whose lives they had inhumanly prolonged in order to put them to death in more cruel torments was, in some sort, to justify the barbarity with which they reproached their enemies; that the right of war simply permitted us to take an enemy's life, and not, so to say, to become drunk in his blood, and to plunge him into despair, by putting him to death in any way but that of arms, or in any place but that of the combat; lastly, that it was their duty to give the Sacs and Foxes an example of that moderation which is the part of a good heart, and which draws admiration and love on the Christian religion, and consequently on those who profess it.

I do not know whether my interpreter translated all that I have just said, but the Indian would never admit that he acted on a false principle; I was going to give him some further reasons when the order was given to advance against the enemy's last fort. This post is situated on the banks of a little river, which joins another called Wisconsin, and falls into the Mississippi, thirty leagues off.

We found no one there, and, as we had no orders to go further, we spent some days in laying the country waste, so as to cut off from the enemy all means of subsistence. This country is fine enough: the soil is fertile, game common, and of good flavor; the nights are very cold, and the day extremely hot. I will speak to you, in my second letter, of my return to Montreal, and of what happened down to my departure for France. I wish first to hear from you, and learn whether you find this sufficiently detailed. The sequel

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