

## VOYAGES AND EXPLORATIONS

them to take me back in our despatch boat. To do this they prepared eight canoes to run the rapids, and stripped themselves naked, and made me take off everything but my shirt; for often it happens that some are lost in shooting the rapids; therefore, they keep close to one another, to aid one another promptly if a canoe should happen to capsize. They said to me: "If by chance yours should happen to turn over, as you do not know how to swim, on no account abandon it, but hold on to the little sticks that are in the middle, for we will save you easily." I assure you that those who have not seen or passed this place in these little boats that they have, could not pass it without great fear, even the most self-possessed persons in the world. But these people are so skillful in shooting these rapids that it is easy for them. I did it with them—a thing that I never had done, nor had any Christian, except my youth—and we came to our barks, where I lodged a large number of them.

There was a young man among us who decided to go with the Huron savages, who live about 180 leagues from the rapids; and he went with Savignon's brother, who was one of the captains, and he promised me to show him all that he could.