

their Corn in their Absence ; however, our Necessity being very great, and it being impossible to continue our Voyage without it, Mr. *La Salle* took about Forty Bushels, hoping to appease them with some Presents. We Embark'd again with this fresh Provision, and fell down the River the 1st of *January*, we took the Elevation of the Pole, which was 33 Deg. 45 Min. Altho' we used all the Precaution we cou'd, we found our selves on a sudden in the middle of their Camp, which took up both Sides of the River. The *Illinois* being much terrify'd, tho' they were several Thousand Men, tendered us the *Calumet* of Peace, and we offer'd 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 reduc'd to an unspeakable Necessity when he came to their Village, and seeing no probability to subsist, he had been forc'd 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 cou'd spare it ; and if they cou'd not, they were free to take it again. The *Savages* consider'd our Proposal, granted our Demands, and made an Alliance with us.

Some Days after *Nickanape*, 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 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.