

very beautiful prairie. Here, for the first time, I saw the deadly rattle-snake; when I have the pleasure of seeing you, I shall speak more particularly of these animals; enough be it for the present, to say that none of our party were troubled by them.

As we had all come up by the 26th of July, I celebrated Mass, which I had deferred till then, and the next day we started for Michillima, or Missillima Kinac, which is a post situated between Lakes Huron and Michigan. Although we had a hundred leagues to make, the wind was so favorable that we reached it in less than six days. Here we remained some time to repair what had been damaged on the rapids and portages. I here blessed the standards, and buried some soldiers whom sickness or fatigue had carried off.

On the 10th of August, we set out from Michillimak-inac, and entered Lake Michigan. The wind which detained us there two days, enabled our Indians to go to hunt; they brought back some moose and reindeer, and were polite enough to offer us some. We at first excused ourselves, but they forced us to accept their present, and told us, that, as we had shared with them the dangers of the route, it was fair that they should share with us the good things they had found; and that they would not deem themselves men, if they acted otherwise towards other men. This speech, which one of our men translated for me, quite moved me. What humanity in savages! how many men in Europe would better deserve the name of barbarian than these Americans!

This generosity of our Indians merited, on our part, indeed, a lively gratitude, for, as we had met no good

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