

June,  
1682.



design. The village of the Tamaroas was distant only a day and a half; a warrior went to bear them the calumet, and when I had told them that the Iroquois canoe was very far away, the party turned back. On the 18th, when we came in view of the village, the chiefs came to meet me and we went together to the village. On the 20th, after having made them some presents, I set out, arriving on the 27th at the Illinois village, which we found abandoned by reason of fear of the Iroquois. The water being very low, I was forced to abandon my canoe and to go on foot to the lake, which is forty leagues from there.

From the way in which I have described the Great River, the circumstance that its banks are lined with cane may seem unfortunate to you; but I can assure you that this is only a fringe which does not extend far back. There is a second belt of true forest, where there are many fruits unknown to us, and an abundance of mulberry, laurel, and palm trees; and beyond the forest are great prairies covered with all kinds of wild beasts, such as the hart, the roe-deer, the bear, the hare, the rabbit, the lynx, the marmot, and a vast number of buffalo, and some other animals which are unknown among us. The soil is wonderfully rich;

*A fruitful  
land.*