149

he to all. We had still and we should undoubtons, if we had not used movements. The wind in, but we had almost connch river, traversing Lake ver Matawan; it stopped in I cannot express the ended that great river; just idea. As I was with indered skilful in shooting g the last at Montreal, in of September, and left ince to an order given me

that city than our commisof Niagara, a new estabated at the entrance of a same name, and which alls of Niagara, south of from our fort. I accordontreal, and thence passed y, which is a fort built cario. Although it is only l, we were fifteen days in ie rapids we had to pass. for favorable winds; for, noes to take a vessel which pressly to run to Niagara. bout eighty tons, is very her trip, which is seventy x hours. The lake is very

safe, free from shoals, and very deep; about the middle I sounded with nearly a hundred fathons of line, but could not touch bottom; its width is about thirty leagues, and its length ninety.

We set sail the 22d of July, and reached our post on the morning of the 27th. I found the spot very agreeable, the chase and fishery are productive, the forest of extreme beauty and full, especially of walnut, chestnut, oak, elm and maple, such as we never see in France.

The fever soon damped the pleasure we enjoyed at Niagara, and troubled us till fall set in, which dissipated the unhealthy air. We spent the winter calmly enough, I may say agreeably, had not the vessel, which should have brought us supplies, been compelled, after standing a terrible tempest on the lake, to put back to Frontenac, and left us under the necessity of drinking nothing but water.

As the season was far advanced, it did not venture to set sail again, and we got our supplies only on the first of May.

From Martinmas the failure of wine prevented my saying Mass, but, as soon as the vessel got in, the garrison went to their Easter duties, and I started for Detroit on the invitation of a religious of my order, who was missionary there. It is a hundred leagues from Niagara to this post, which is situated six leagues from the entrance of a very beautiful river, about fifteen leagues from the extremity of Lake Erie.

This lake, which may be a hundred leagues long, and some thirty wide, is very flat, and consequently bad when the wind is high; towards the north, above the Great Point d' Ecorres, it is bounded by very high sand