

and we named it *Crevecoeur*, because the desertion of our men, with the difficulties we laboured under, had almost broke our hearts. We had also built a bark for the continuance of our discovery. It was fortytwo feet long by the keel, and was in such a forwardness, that we should have been in a condition to sail in a very short time, had we been provided with all other necessaries. But hearing nothing of our ship *Griffin*, and therefore wanting the rigging and other tackle we expected by her, we found ourselves in great perplexity, and did not know what to do in this sad juncture, being above five hundred leagues from fort *Frontenac*; whither it was almost impossible to return at that time, because the snow made travelling very dangerous by land, and the ice made it impracticable to our canoes.

Mr. la Salle did now no longer doubt but his beloved *Griffin* was lost; but neither this nor the other difficulties dejected him. His great courage buoyed him up, and he resolved with three men to return to fort *Frontenac* by land, notwithstanding the snow and the unspeakable dangers attending so great a journey, and to bring along with him the necessary things to proceed on our discovery; while I with two men should go in a canoe to the river *Mississippi*, to get the friendship of the nations inhabiting the banks thereof. Then calling his men together, told them, "He would leave Mr. *Tonti* to command in the fort, and desired them to obey his orders in his absence, to live in a Christian union and charity, to be courageous and firm in their design." He assured them, "He would return with