

place of abode. Winter came upon us sooner than we expected, and prevented us from doing many things which we had proposed. . . .

The snows began on the 6th of October. On the 3rd of December we saw ice pass which came from some frozen river. The cold was sharp, more severe than in France, and of much longer duration, and it scarcely rained at all the entire winter. I suppose that is owing to the north and northwest winds passing over high mountains always covered with snow. The latter was from three to four feet deep up to the end of the month of April, lasting much longer, I suppose, than it would if the country were cultivated. During the winter many of our company were attacked by a certain malady called the *mal de la terre*—otherwise scurvy¹, as I have since heard from learned men. . . . so that out of seventy-nine who composed our party thirty-five died and more than twenty were on the point of death. The majority of those who remained well also complained of slight pains and short breath. We were unable to find any remedy for these maladies. . . . Our surgeons could not help suffering themselves in the same manner as the rest. Those who continued sick were healed by spring, which commences in this country in May. That led us to believe that the change of season restored their health rather than the remedies prescribed. During this winter all our liquors froze, except the Spanish wine. Cider was dispensed by the pound. The cause of this loss was that there were no cellars to our storehouse, and that the air which entered by the cracks was sharper than that outside. We were obliged to use very bad water, and drink melted snow, as there were no springs nor brooks, for it was not possible to go to the main-land in consequence of the great pieces of ice drifted by the tide, which varies three fathoms between low and high water. Work on the hand-mill was very fatiguing, since the most of us, having slept poorly, and suffering from insufficiency of fuel, which we could not obtain on account of the ice, had scarcely any strength, and also because we ate only salt meat and vegetables during the winter, which produce bad blood. The latter circumstance was, in my opinion, a partial cause of these dreadful maladies. All this produced discontent in *Sieur de Monts* and others of the settlement.

It would be very difficult to ascertain the character of this region without spending a winter in it; for, on arriving here in summer, everything is very agreeable, in consequence of the woods, fine country, and the many varieties of good fish which are found there. There are six months of winter in this country. The savages who dwell here are few in number. During the winter, in the deepest snows, they hunt elks and other animals, on which they live most of the time; and, unless the snow is deep, they scarcely get rewarded for their pains, since they cannot capture anything except by a very great effort, which

¹ It follows exposure to damp, cold, and impure atmosphere, accompanied by long-continued use of the same kind of food, particularly of salt meats, with bad water. All of these conditions existed at the Island of St. Croix.