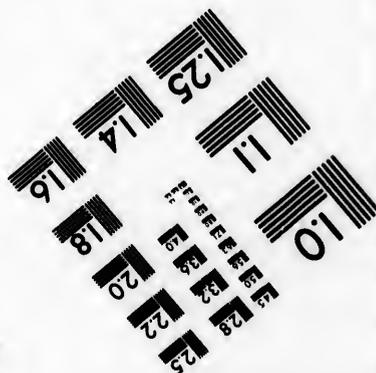
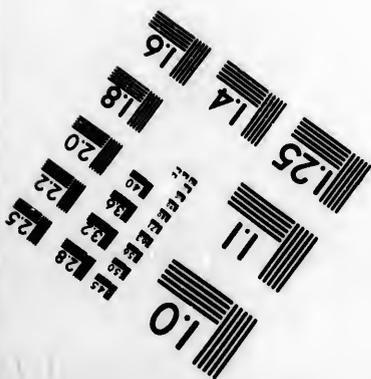
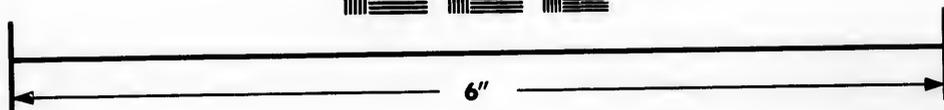
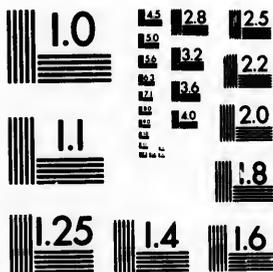


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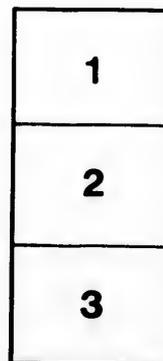
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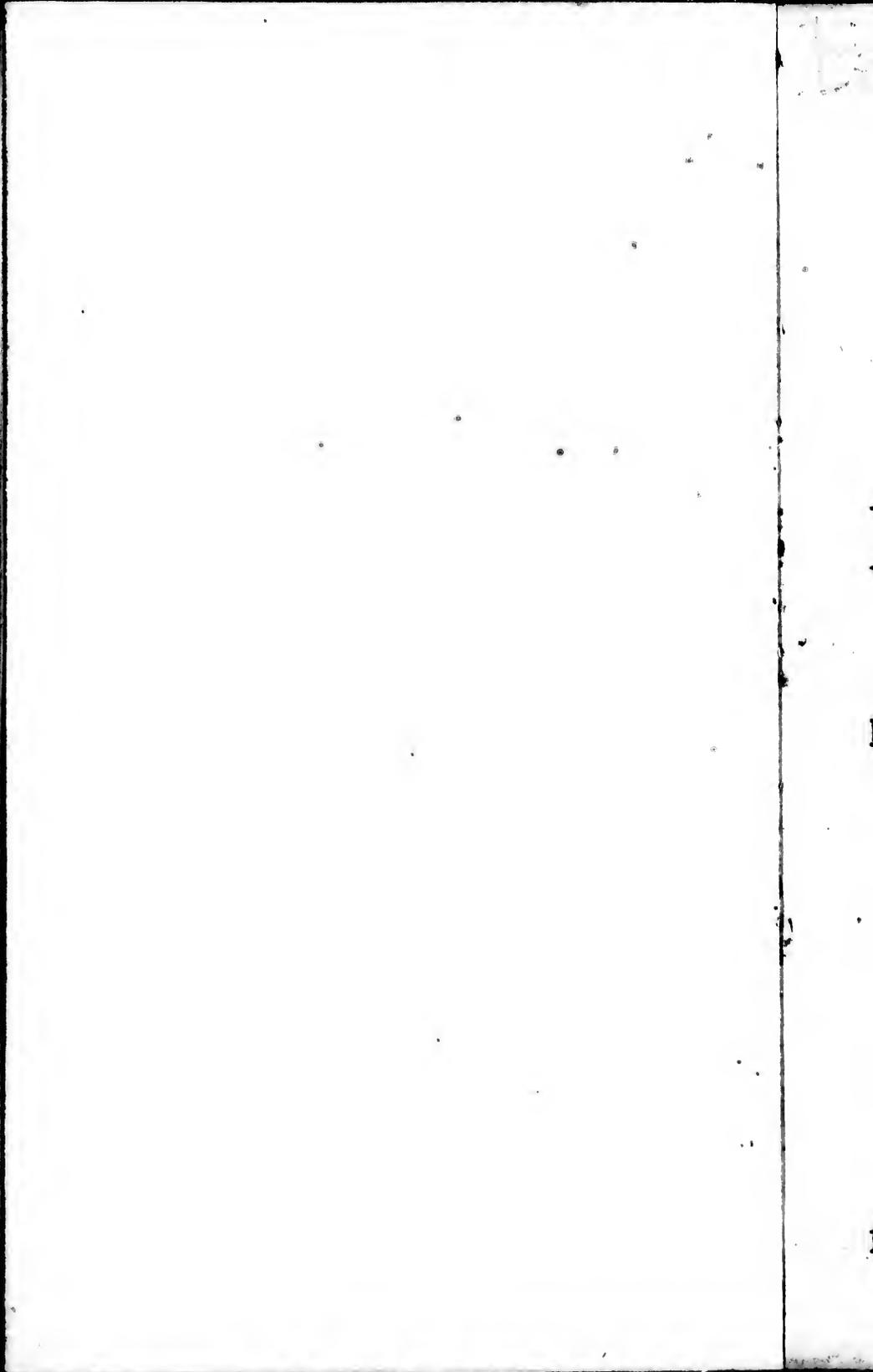
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This book is by La Salle. Compare
with Bannard's of 1730
A 1763 on

DISCOVERY

Of a Large, Rich, and Plentiful

COUNTRY,

IN THE

North *AMERICA*;

Extending above 4000 Leagues.

WHEREIN,
By a very short Passage, lately found
out, thro' the *Mer-Barmejo* into the SOUTH-
SEA; by which a considerable Trade might
be carry'd on, as well in the *Northern* as
the *Southern* Parts of *AMERICA*.



J. Bannard del. R. Kitchin sculp.

L O N D O N:

Printed for W. BOREHAM, at the *Angel*, in
Pater-Noster-Row. (Price Six-Pence.)

(1680) 1720

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T H E
P R E F A C E.

THERE being no other Way practicable of raising the Credit of the South-Sea Stock, than by immediately Trading to the South-Sea ; and as no stock Jobbing, nothing that depends upon the Humour and Caprice of the People can do it ; nay, and since it is impossible that the Subscriptions should be answer'd, there not being Money enough in the Nation to answer them, by which alone it might have been supported something longer. I have thought

The PREFACE.

thought fit at this Time, when the Credit of the Nation is sinking, and the Fears and Confusions of the People run so high, to publish ^{one Bubble more} the following Journal, which contains the Travels of a Frenchman thro' America (as diverting perhaps and instructive as any yet extant) to shew how it might be made far more Advantagions to the Proprietors, (were proper Methods taken) than any thing that has yet been concerted; and this by only giving an Historical Account of the Country; where it is plain, how easily a Colony might be settled in the vast Tract of Land hereafter mention'd, and a Trade not only Establish'd there, but to the South-Sea, (by a Passage newly discover'd) in a manner as much preferable to what is transacted at present, as by a Way infinitely more convenient and shorter. a new Bubble

^ one Bubble more,



A

NEW DISCOVERY

OF A

Large and Plentiful

COUNTRY

IN THE

Northern *AMERICA*, &c.

I SHALL in the following Account omit the Accidents that befel us in our Passage, being such as are inseparable from all great Voyages, and begin with my Arrival at *Quebec*, from whence we went up the River *St. Lawrence* Southwards, till we came to *Fort Frontenac*, distant from *Quebec* one hundred Leagues. It was built to prevent the Excursions of the *Iroquese*, and to interrupt the Trade of Skins, these Savages maintain with the Inhabitants of *New-York*, who furnish them with Commodities at cheaper Rates than the *French* of *Canada*.

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The *Iroquefe* are an insolent and barbarous Nation, and have shed the Blood of more than two Millions of People in that vast extended Country: They would never cease from disturbing the Repose of the *Europeans*, were it not for fear of their Fire-Arms; for they entertain no Commerce with them, unless it be for Arms, which they buy on purpose to use against their Neighbours, and by means of which they have extended their bloody Conquests five or six hundred Leagues beyond their own Precincts, exterminating whatever Nation they hate.

I remained here two Years and a Half, and then return'd in a *Canoe* down the River St. *Lawrence* to *Quebec*.

left Quebec Sept 1678

Having tarry'd there till those who were expected from *Europe*, to bear Part in this Discovery, were arriv'd, I embark'd in a small *Canoe*, made of the Bark of Birch Trees, carrying nothing with me but one Blanket, and a Matt of Rushes, which was to serve me for Bed and Quilt. I arriv'd at *Frontenac* the 2d of *November*, and on the 18th embark'd on board a Brigantine, about 10 Tuns and 15 Men: We sail'd on till we came to the further End of the Lake *Ontario*, and on the 6th of *January* enter'd the River *Niagara*, where we set our Carpenters, and the rest of the Crew, to Work, in building a Fort and some Houses; but foreseeing that this was like to give Jealousy to the *Iroquefe*, we told those of the Village of *Niagara*, that we did not intend to build a Fort on the Bank of their River, but only a great Store-house, to keep the Commodities we had brought to Supply their Occasions, and to remove their Suspicion. Mr. *De la Motte*, our Captain, thought

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thought it absolutely necessary to send an *Embassy* to the *Iroquese*; telling me he was resolv'd to take along with him seven Men out of sixteen we were in all, and desired me to accompany him, because I understood in a manner the Language of their Nation. We pass'd thro' Forests thirty two Leagues, and after five Days Journey came to a great Village, and were immediately carry'd to the Cabins of their principal. The younger Savages wash'd our Feet, and rubb'd them over with the Greese of Deers, wild Goats, and the Oil of Bears. They are for the most part tall and well shap'd, cover'd with a Sort of Robe, made of Beavers and Wolfe-Skins, or black Squirrels; hold a Pipe, or Calumet, in their Hands. One of our Men, who well understood their Language, told the Assembly. 1. That we were come to pay them a Visit, and smook with them in their Pipes. Then we deliver'd our Presents, consisting of the Axe, Knives, a great Collar of white and blue Porcelain, with some Gowns: The same Presents were renew'd upon every Point we propos'd to them. 2. We desired them to give Notice to the five Cantons of their Nation, that were about to build a Ship, or great Canoe, above the great Fall of the River *Niagara*, to go and fetch *European* Commodities, by a more convenient Passage than that of the River *St. Lawrence*, whose rapid Currents make it dangerous and long. 3. We told them that we should provide them at the River *Niagara* with a Blacksmith and a Gunsmith, to mend their Guns, Axes, &c. they having no Body among them who understood that Trade. We added many other Reasons which we thought proper to perswade them to favour our Design. The Presents we made to them Cloth or Iron, were worth above four hundred Livres, besides some other *European* Commodities,

1679

ties, very scarce in that Country; for the best Reasons in the World are not listened to among them, unless they are inforc'd with Presents.

The next Day their Speaker answer'd our Discourse Article by Article, seeming to be pleas'd with our Proposal, tho' they were not really so. Whilst we were with them, their Parties had made an Excursion towards *Virginia*, and brought two Prisoners; they spared the Life of one, but put to Death the other, with the most exquisite Tortures. They commonly use this inhumanity towards all their Prisoners, and their Tortures some times last a Month: When they have brought them into their Canton, they lay them on Pieces of Wood, like a *St. Andrew's Cross*, to which they tye their Legs and Arms, and expose them to Gnats and Flies, who sting them to Death. Children cut Pieces of Flesh out of their Flanks, Thighs, or other Parts, and boiling them, force those poor Souls to eat thereof; their Parents eat some themselves, and the better to inspire into their Children, a hatred of their Enemies give them some of their Blood to drink. This Cruelty oblig'd us to leave them sooner than we wou'd have done, to shew them the Horror we had of their inhumanity, and never eat with them afterwards, but return'd the same Way. We went thro' the Woods to the River *Niagara*, where we arriv'd the 14th of *January*, much fatigued with our Voyage, having no Food on the Way but *Indian Corn*. *Mr. De la Motte* no longer able to endure so laborious a Life, gave over his Design, and return'd to *Canada*, having about two hundred Leagues to Travel.

On the 20th of *Jan.* Mr. *De la Salle*, came from *Fort Frontenac*, with a great Bark to Supply us with Provisions, Rigging, and Tackling, for the Ship, we design'd to build at the Mouth of the *Lake Eric*, but that Bark was unfortunately cast away on the *Lake Ontario*, within two Leagues of *Niagara*, where we made a Dock for building the Ships. Mr. *De la Salle* return'd to *Fort Frontenac*, leaving one *Tonti*, an *Italian*, for our Commander: He undertook this Journey on Foot over the Snow, having no other Provision but a little Sack of roasted *Indian Corn*; however, he got Home safe, with two Men and a Dog, who dragged his Baggage over the Frozen Snow.

Most of the *Iroquese* were now gone to wage War on the other Side the *Lake Eric*, and our Men continued, with great Application, to build our Ship; for the *Iroquese*, who were left behind, were not so insolent as before, tho' they came some times to our Dock and express'd some Discontent at what we were doing.

We made all the Haste we cou'd to get our Ship a float, tho' not altogether finish'd, to prevent their Designs of burning it: She was call'd the *Griffin*, about 60 Tons, and carry'd 5 small Guns; we fired 3 Guns, and carrying our Hammock a board, the same Day were out of the reach of the Savages.

Before we cou'd proceed in our intended Discovery, I was oblig'd to return to *Fort Frontenac*, where having dispatch'd my Affairs, I, with two of my Friends, went on board a *Brigantine*, and, in a short Time, arriv'd at the River which runs into the *Lake Ontario*,

Ontario, where we continued several Days, our Men being very busy in battering their Commodities with the Natives, who exchange'd their Skins for Knives, Guns, Powder, and Shot, but especially Brandy, which they love above all Things. Mr. *De la Salle* arriv'd in a *Canoe* eight Days after.

These Impediments retarded us so long, that we cou'd not reach the River *Niagara* before the 30th of *July*: I and one more went over Land to view the great Fall, the like whereof is not in the whole World: It is compounded of two great cros Streams of Water, and two Falls, with an Isle stooping along the Middle of it; the Waters which fall from this vast Height do foam and boil after the most hideous Manner imaginable, making an outrageous Noise, more terrible than that of Thunder; so that when the Wind blows from the *South*, their dismal roaring may be heard 15 Leagues off.

The River *Niagara*, having thrown itself down this incredible Precipice, continues its impetuous Course for two Leagues, with an inexpressible Rapidity; and the Brinks are so prodigious high, that it makes one tremble to look steadily on the Water, rolling along with a Rapidity not to be imagined: It is so rapid above the Descent, that it violently hurries down the wild Beasts, endeavouring to pass it, to feed on the other Side, casting them down Headlong above six hundred Foot. A Bark, or greater Vessel, may part from *Fort Frontenac*, until you come within two Leagues of the Fall, for which two Leagues the People are oblig'd to carry their Goods over Land; but the Way is very good, and the Trees are but few, and they chiefly Furs and Oaks. Were it not for this vast Cataract, which

which interrupts Navigation, we might sail with Barks, or greater Vessels, above 450 Leagues further.

On the 7th of *August* we went on board, being in all 34 Men, and sail'd from the Mouth of the Lake *Eric*, and on the 11th enter'd a Streight 30 Leagues long, and one broad, except in the Middle, which makes the Lake of *St. Claire*. On the 23d we got into the Lake *Haron*; the 26th we had so violent a Storm, that we brought down our Yards and Top-masts, and let the Ship drive at the Mercy of the Wind, knowing no Place to run into to shelter ourselves. Mr. *La Salle*, notwithstanding he was a courageous Man, began to fear, and told us we were undone; whereupon every Body fell on his Knees to say his Prayers, and prepare himself for Death, except our Pilot, whom we cou'd never oblige to pray; and he did nothing all that while but Curse and Swear against Mr. *La Salle*, who had brought him thither, to make him perish in a nasty Lake, and loose the Glory he had acquir'd by his long and happy Navigations on the Ocean. When the Wind abated, we hoisted our Sail, and the next Day arriv'd at *Missilimakinak*.

On the 2d of *September* we weigh'd Anchor, and sail'd to an Island at the Mouth of the Bay of *Puans*, 40 Leagues from *Missilimakinak*: The chief among them, who had formerly been in *Canada*, received us with all the Civility imaginable. Mr. *La Salle*, without asking any Body's Advice, resolv'd to send back his Ship to *Niagara*, laden with Furs and Skins, to discharge his Debts. Our Pilot, and five Men with him, were therefore sent back, and order'd to return, with all imaginable Speed, towards the

Southern Parts of the Lake, where we shou'd stay for them among the *Illinois*: They sail'd the 18th, with a Westerly Wind, and fired a Gun as taking Leave. It was never known what Course they steer'd, nor how they perished; but, 'tis suppos'd, that the Ship struck upon a Rock, and was there bury'd. This was a great Loss for Mr. *Salle* and his Adventurers, for that Ship, with its Cargo, cost above 60000 Livres.

We continued our Voyage in four *Canoes*, being 14 Men in all; and departed the 19th of *September*. We steer'd to the South, towards the Continent, distant from the Island near 40 Leagues. on the 1st of *October*, after 12 Leagues rowing; we were in so great Danger by Strefs of Weather, that we were forced to throw ourselves into the Water, and carry our *Canoes* on our Shoulders, to save them from being broken to Pieces.

Having no Acquaintance with the Savages of the Village near which we landed, we prepared to make a vigorous Defence in case of an Attack, and, in order to it, possess'd ourselves of a rising Ground, where we cou'd not be surpriz'd: We then sent three Men to buy Provisions in the Village, with the Calumet, or Pipe of Peace, which those of the Island had given us, and because the Calumet is the most sacred Thing among the Savages, I shall here describe the same.

It is a large Tobacco-Pipe, of a red, black, or white Marble; the Head is finely polish'd, the Quill, which is commonly two Foot and a half long, is made of a pretty strong Reed, or Cane, adorned with Feathers of all Colours, interlaced
with

with locks of Womens Hair; every Nation adorns it as they think fit, and according to the Birds they have in their Country. Such a Pipe is a safe Conduct among all the Allies of the Nation who has given it; and in all Embassays the *Calumet* is carry'd as a signal of Peace, the Savages being generally perswaded, that some great Misfortune wou'd befall them, if they should violate the publick Faith of the *Calumet*. They fill this Pipe with the best *Tobacco* they have, and then present it to those with whom they have concluded any great Affair, and smoak out of the same after them.

Our Three Men provided with this Pipe, and very well arm'd, went to the little Village, three Leagues from the Place where we Landed; but finding no Body therein, took some *Indian* Corn, and left instead of it some Goods, to let them see we were no Robbers, nor their Enemies. However, Twenty of them arm'd with Axes, small Guns, Bows and Clubs, advanced near the Place where we stood; whereupon Mr. *La Salle*, with Four Men very well arm'd went towards them, to speak with them, and desired them to come near us, for fear a Party of our Men who were gone a Hunting, shou'd meet with them. They sat down at the Foot of the Eminence where we were Posted, and Mr. *La Salle* spoke to them all the while concerning his Voyage, which, he told them he had undertaken for their Good and Advantage. This was only to amuse them till our Three Men return'd, who appearing with the *Calumet* of Peace, the Savages made a great Shout, and rose and began to Dance. We excus'd our taking some of their Corn, telling them we had left the true value of it in Goods, which they

took so well that they immediately sent for more, and gave us next Day as much as we cou'd carry in our *Canoe*; they retired towards Evening, and Mr. *La Salle* ordered some Trees to be cut down and laid a-cross the Way, to prevent any Surprize from them. The Oldest of them came to us next Morning with their *Calumet* of Peace, and brought us some wild *Goats*; we presented them with some *Axes*, *Knives*, and several little Toys for their Wives, with which they were well pleased.

We left that Place the 2d of *October*, and Coasted along the *Lake*, which is so steep we cou'd hardly find any Place to Land; the violence of the Wind obliged us to drag our *Canoe* sometimes to the Top of the *Rocks*, to prevent their being dash'd to pieces. The stormy Weather lasted four Days, during which we suffer'd very much, and our Provisions fail'd us again, which with the fatigue of Rowing caus'd one of my fore-mention'd Friends to faint away in such a manner, that I thought verily he could not live. We had no other Subsistence than a handful of *Indian* Corn once every Twenty four Hours, which we Roasted, or else Boiled in Water; and yet rowed almost every Day from Morning till Night. Being in this dismal Distress, we saw upon the Coast a great many *Ravens* and *Eagles*, from whence we conjectur'd there was some Prey; and having Landed upon that Place, we found above half of a fat wild *Goat*, which the *Wolves* had strangled. This Provision was very acceptable to us, and the rest of our Men cou'd not but praise the Divine Providence, who took so particular a care of us.

Having

Having thus refresh'd our selves, we continu'd our Voyage directly to the *Southern* Parts of the *Lake*. On the 16th we met with abundance of Game. A *Savage* we had with us kill'd several *Stags* and wild *Goats*, wherewith we provided our selves for several Days, and so embark'd again on the 1st of *November*. We came to the Mouth of the River of the *Miamis*, which runs from the *South* and falls into the *Lake*. Here we spent all that Month in Building a Fort, forty Foot long, and eighty broad, made with great square pieces of Timber laid one upon the other.

On the 3d of *December* we Embark'd, being Thirty three Men in eight *Canoes*, and having row'd about Twenty five Leagues up the River *Miamis*, to the *South West*, we cou'd not find the Place where we were to Land, and carry our *Canoes* and Equipage into the River of the *Illinois*, which falls into *Mississippi*. Our *Savage* who was Hunting on the Shore, not finding us at the Place of Portage, came higher up the River, and told us we had miss'd it; so we return'd and carry'd our *Canoes* over Land, to the Head of the *Illinois* River, which is but a League and a half from that of *Miamis*. We continu'd our Course upon this River very near the whole Month of *December*; towards the End of which we arriv'd at the Village of the *Illinois*, about one Hundred and thirty Leagues from Fort *Miamis*. We found no Body in the Village, which caus'd a great Perplexity among us; for tho' we wanted Provisions, yet we durst not meddle with the Corn they had laid under Ground for their Subsistence, and to sow their Lands with; it being the most sensible Wrong one can do them, in their Opinion, to take some of

their Corn in their Absence ; however, our Necessity being very great, and it being impossible to continue our Voyage without it, Mr. *La Salle* took about Forty Bushels, hoping to appease them with some Presents. We Embark'd again with this fresh Provision, and fell down the River the 1st of *January*, we took the Elevation of the Pole, which was 33 Deg. 45 Min. Altho' we used all the Precaution we cou'd, we found our selves on a sudden in the middle of their Camp, which took up both Sides of the River. The *Illinois* being much terrify'd, tho' they were several Thousand Men, tendered us the *Calumet* of Peace, and we offer'd them ours ; Mr. *La Salle* presented them with *Martinico Tobacco*, and some *Axes* ; he told them he knew how necessary their Corn was to them, but that being reduc'd to an unspeakable Necessity when he came to their Village, and seeing no probability to subsist, he had been forc'd to take some Corn from their Habitations, without their Leave, that he would give them *Axes* and other Things in lieu of it, if they cou'd spare it ; and if they cou'd not, they were free to take it again. The *Savages* consider'd our Proposal, granted our Demands, and made an Alliance with us.

Some Days after *Nickanape*, Brother to the most considerable Man among them, who was then absent, invited us to a great Feast, and before we sat down told us, that he had invited us, not so much to give us a Treat, as to dissuade us from the Resolution we had taken, to go down to the Sea by the great River *Mississippi* ; he said, that the Banks of that River were Inhabited by barbarous and bloody Nations, and that several had perished upon the same Enterprize.

Enterprize. Our Interpreter told him, by order of Mr. *La Salle*, that we were much oblig'd to him for his Advice, but that the Difficulties and Dangers he had mention'd wou'd make our Enterprize still more Glorious; that we fear'd the Master of Life of all Men, who ruled the Sea and all the World, and therefore wou'd think it Happiness to lay down our Lives to make his Name known to all his Creatures. However, *Nickanape's* Discourse had put some of our Men under such terrible Apprehensions, that we could never recover their Courage, nor remove their Fears, so that Six of them who had the Guard that Night (among which were two Sawyers, the most necessary of our Workmen for building our Ship) ran away, taking with them what they thought Necessary; but considering the Country thro' which they were to Travel, and the Season of the Year, we may say, that for avoiding an uncertainty, they expos'd themselves to a most certain Danger.

Mr. *La Salle* seeing these Men were gone, exhorted the rest to continue firm in their Duty, assuring them, that if any were afraid of venturing themselves upon the River *Mississippi*, because of the Danger *Nickanape* had mention'd, he wou'd give 'em leave to return next Spring to *Canada*, and allow them a *Canoe* to make their Voyage; whereas they could not venture to return Home at this time of the Year, without exposing themselves to perish with Hunger, Cold, or the Hands of the Savages.

On the 15th we made choice of an Eminence on the Bank of the River. defended on that side by the River, and on Two others by Two deep Ditches, made

made by the Rains; so that it was accessible only one By-way. We cast a Line, to join those two natural Ditches, and made the Eminence steep on every Side, supporting the Earth with great pieces of Timber. By the 1st of *March*, our Fort was near finish'd, and we Named it *Crevecaur*, because the Desertion of our Men, with the Difficulties we labour'd under, had almost broke our Hearts. We also built a Bark, for the continuance of our Discoveries; it was Forty two Foot long by the Keel, and was in such Forwardness, that we shou'd have been in a condition to Sail in a very short time, had we been provided with all our Necessaries; but hearing nothing of the Ship *Griffin*, and therefore wanting the Rigging, and other Tackle we expected by her, we found our selves 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 buoy'd him up, and he resolv'd 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, shou'd go in a *Canoe* to the River *Mississippi*, to get the Friendship of the Nations Inhabiting the Banks thereof; then calling his Men together, he told them, that he wou'd leave Mr. *Tonti*

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 all the Speed imaginable, and bring with him a fresh supply of Meat, Ammunition, and Rigging for our Bark; in the mean time he left them Arms, and other Things necessary for a vigorous Defence, in case their Enemies shou'd attack them before his return. Then telling me that he expected I should depart without further delay; he Embraced me and gave me a *Calumet* of Peace, with two Men to manage our *Canoe*, to whom he gave some Commodities, to the value of about one Thousand *Livres*, to trade with the *Savages*, or make Presents; he gave to me in particular, and for my own Use, ten *Knives*, twelve Shoemaker's *Awls*, or *Bodkins*, a small roll of *Martinico Tobacco*, two Pound of *Raf-sade*, i. e. little Pearls, or Rings of colour'd Glass, to make Bracelets for the *Savages*, and a small parcel of *Needles*, telling me, he wou'd have given me a greater Quantity had it been in his Power.

Thus relying on the Providence of God, I embraced all our Men, and took my Leave of Mr. *La Salle*, who set out a few Days after for *Canada*, with three Men, without any Provisions but what they kill'd in their Journey, during which they suffer'd very much by cold Weather, Snow and Hunger.

We set out from Fort *Crevecaur* the 29th of *February*, and when we had gone Fifty Leagues down the River, we came to the Place where it falls into the *Missisipi*, between 35 and 36 Deg. of Latitude. The *Missisipi* runs to the S. S. W. between two
ridges

ridges of Mountains, is in some Places a League broad, and half a League where it is narrowest: The Ice that came down stop'd us here till the 12th of *March*, then after Prayers we Embark'd, and continuing our Course down the River, we discover'd three *Savages* on the 15th, and Landing marched up to them, whereupon they ran away; but after some Signs, one return'd and presented us the *Calumet* of Peace, which when we had receiv'd the two others came back. We could not understand one Word of their Language, and when we named two or three different Nations to them, one answered three times *Chiquacha*. They gave us some *Pelicans* they had kill'd with their Arrows, and we presented them with part of our Meat. Two Days after we saw many *Savages* near the River, crying aloud, *Safaconests*, that is, *Who goes there?* as I have been inform'd. They sent a *Pirogue*, or heavy wooden *Canoe* towards us, wherein were the three *Savages* we had met two Days before. We presented our *Calumet* of Peace, which they receiv'd, but gave us to understand by Signs, that we must go to the *Akanssa*, pointing to the *Savages* a-shore. We could not avoid it, and as soon as we were Landed, the three *Chiquachas* took our *Canoe* upon their Shoulders, and carried it to the Villiage. These *Savages* receiv'd us very kindly, and presented us with Beans, *Indian Corn* and *Flesh* to Eat; we made them also a Present of some of our *European* Commodities, which they admired, putting their Fingers upon their Mouths when they saw our Guns. The 18th we Embark'd again, after having been entertain'd with Dancing and Feasting, and carry'd away our Commodities, tho' the *Savages* were loath to part with them; but having accepted our *Calumet*

met of Peace, they did not presume to stop us by Force,

We pass'd by the Nations of *Taensa* and *Coroa*, by both which we were kindly receiv'd, and on the 24th came to the Nation of *Quiniquissa*. The next Day we came to a Point, where the *Missisipi* divides it self into three Channels, we took the middle one which is very broad and deep. The Water began there to tast Brackish, but four Leagues lower was as Salt as the Sea. We rowed about four Leagues further, and discover'd the Sea. The Mouth of the River is very deep, without being interrupted with any Sands, so that great Ships may go up as far as the *Illinois* River, which is two Hundred Leagues; its Course from it's Source to the Sea, may be eight Hundred Leagues, including Windings and Turnings, it falls into the Gulph of *Mexico*, between 27 and 28 Deg. of Latitude; its Mouth may be about thirty Leagues from *Rio Bravo*, sixty from *Palmas*, and eighty, or a hundred from *Rio Paunco*, the nearest Habitation of the *Spaniards*.

My two Men were very glad of this Discovery, but on the other hand, they express'd a great deal of dissatisfaction, to have been at such Trouble without making any Profit, having found no Furs to exchange for their Commodities. They were also much afraid of the *Spaniards* of *New Mexico*, and were perpetually telling me, That if they were taken, the *Spaniards* wou'd never spare their Lives, or at

least, give them the liberty to return into Europe. I knew their Fears were not altogether unreasonable, and therefore I resolv'd to go no further.

We lay during the time we were a-shoar under our *Canoe*, supported with four Forks, and made Curtains of some rolls of *Birch Bark*, hanging from the top to the Ground, to defend us from the Rain. We saw no Body, and therefore cannot tell whether that Coast be inhabited. We squared a Tree of twelve Foot high, and making a Cross of it, Erected it in that Place, leaving there a Letter Signed by me and my two Men, containing an Account of our Voyage, Country, and Profession; then kneeling near the Cross, we sung some Hymns, and embark'd again on the 1st of *April*, to return toward the Source of the River.

'Tis observable, that during the whole Course of our Sailing, God protected us against the Crocodils, which are very numerous in that River, especially towards the Mouth. They looked dreadful, and wou'd have attack'd us, had we not been very careful to avoid them.

Our *Canoe* being loaded with three Men only, and our Provisions did not draw three Inches Water, and therefore we cou'd Row very near the Shore, and avoid the Current of the River. The next Day, *April* the 2d, we saw towards break of Day, a great Smoak not far from us, and soon after discovered
four

four *Savage* Women loaden with Wood, marching as fast as they could to get to their Village before us ; but some *Buffards* coming near us, one of my Men cou'd not forbear to Shoot at them, which so frightened the Women, that they left their Wood and ran away to their Village, where they arriv'd before us. The Savages having heard the Noise, were in as great Fear as their Wives, and left their Village upon our Approach. But I landing alone, advanced immediately with my *Calumet* of Peace ; whereupon they returned and received us with all the Respect and Civility imaginable. We made them some small Presents to shew our Gratitude, and left that Place *April* the 4th, and rowed with such Diligence, that we arriv'd the same Day at *Koroo*. I was surpriz'd to see their *Indian* Corn, which was left very Green, grown already to Maturity ; but I have learn'd since that their Corn is Ripe sixty Days after it is Sown ; they have three or four Crops of *Indian* Corn in a Year, having no other Winter than some Rain. They have all sorts of Trees we have in *Europe*, and many other unknown to us ; there are the finest Cedars in the World, and another Tree from which drops the most fragrant Gum, which, in my Opinion, exceeds our best Perfumes : The Cotton Trees are of a prodigious height ; the Savages make them hollow with Fire, to make their Pirogues of them ; we saw some of them, all of a piece above one Hundred Foot long. They told me that to the Westward

were some Beasts that carry'd Men upon their Backs, and shew'd us the Hoof and part of the Leg of one, which was certainly the Hoof of a Horse; and surely Horses are not utterly unknown in the Northern *America*; for near the Cape named by us *St. Anthony*, we saw a Horse and other Beasts painted upon the Rock with red Colours by Savages; but whereas we had been told the *Spaniards* of *New Mexico* lived not above forty Leagues from them, and supply'd them with *European* Commodities; we found nothing among them that might be suspected to come from thence unless it be some little pieces of Glass, strung upon a Thread, with which the Women adorn their Heads. We left the Habitations of the *Akansaes*, the 4th of *April*, and during sixty Leagues we saw no Savage. Our Provision being spent, we had nothing to live upon but the Game we kill'd, or the Fish we cou'd catch. On the 12th, as my two Men were boyling a Buffard, and my self refitting our *Canoe* on the Bank of the River, I perceiv'd, on a sudden, about two of the Clock in the afternoon, no less then fifty *Canoes*, made of Bark, Mann'd with a hundred and twenty Savages stark Naked coming down the River, with an extraordinary Swiftnes, to surprize the *Miamis* and *Illinois* their Enemies.

We threw away the Broth which was preparing, and getting aboard as fast as we could, made towards them, crying out in the *Iroquesse* and *Algonquin* Languages, Comrades, we are Men of wooden *Canoes*, for so they call those

those that Sail in great Vessels. This had no Effect, for they understood not what we said, so that surrounding us immediately they began to let fly their Arrows at us, till the Eldest amongst them perceiving that I had a *Calumet* of Peace in my Hand, came up to us, and prevented our being Murthered by their Warriours.

They presently jump'd out of their *Canoes*, some upon Land, others into the Water, surrounding us on all Sides with shrieks and out-cries, that were indeed very terrifying. 'Twas to no purpose to resist, being but three to so great a Number. One of them snatch'd the Pipe of Peace out of my Hand. We presented them with some small piéces of *Martinico Tobacco*, and made Signs to them with our Oars upon the Sand; that the *Miamis*, their Enemies, whom they were in search of, had pass'd the River, and were gone to joyn the *Illinois*.

Being then out of all hopes of surprizing their Enemies, three or four of the Eldest of them laid their Hands upon my Head, and began to weep bitterly, accompanying their Tears with such mournful Accents as can hardly be express'd, while I, with a sorry Handkerchief I had left, made shift to dry their Tears; however to very little purpose; for refusing to smok in our *Calumet*, they thereby gave us to understand, that their Design was still to Murther us; and one hundred of their Leaders coming up to us, made us
to

to understand by Signs, that their Warriours were resolv'd upon our Death. This obliged me to apply my self to their Chiefs, and presented them with six Hatchets, fifteen Knives, and some pieces of Tobacco; after which, bending my Neck, and pointing to a Hatchet, I signify'd to them, by that Submission, that we threw our selves at their Mercy.

The Present had the good Effect to soften some of them, who, according to their Custom, gave us some Beavers Flesh to eat, themselves putting the three first bits in our Mouths, having first blown upon it, because it was hot; after this they set a Platter before us, made of the Bark of a Tree, leaving us at liberty to feed after our own Fashion. These Civilities did not hinder us from passing the Night away very uneasily, because in the Evening before they went to Sleep, they had returned us our *Calumet* of Peace. The two *Canoe* Men resolv'd to sell their Lives as dear as they cou'd, and to defend themselves like Men to the last, in case they shou'd attack us, and we Watch'd all Night by Turns, that we might not be surpriz'd in our Sleep.

The next Morning early, one of their Captains, who had been for killing of me, came and demanded my Pipe of Peace; it being deliver'd him, he fill'd it with Tobacco, and made the rest who had been for putting us to Death, smoak in it, then he made Signs that we must go along with them into their Country,

Country, into which they were then returning; this Proposal was very welcome to us, and we rowed in their Company for nineteen Days together, sometimes North, and sometimes North East, according to the best Observations we cou'd make by our Compass; so that after these Barbarians had forc'd us to follow them, we made more than two hundred and fifty Leagues up the River *Mississippi*, and we were got about one hundred and fifty Leagues up the same, above that of the *Illinois*, when we were first taken by them. One of the nineteen Days of our most tiresome Journey, a Captain call'd *Aquipaguetin*, who afterwards adopted me for his Son, had kill'd a large fat Deer, to which he invited the chief Captains of the Warriours; after the Repast, the Savages with their Hair anointed with Oil of Bears, and stuck all over with red and white Feathers, and their Heads cover'd with the Down of Birds, began to Dance with their Hands upon their Hips, and striking their Feet with great force against the Ground; during the Dance, one of the Sons of the Master of the Ceremony, made them all smoak in the Pipe of War, himself shedding abundance of Tears; the Father in the mean while, laying his Hands on our Heads, and lifting his Eyes up to Heaven, bathed himself in Tears. As far as we could judge, this Grimace boaded us no good, and we afterwards understood, he meant nothing less than our Destruction by it, but finding the Opposition he was like to meet with from the other Chiefs, who were of a contrary Opinion, he

he was content to suffer us to re-embark, resolving however to make use of some other Stratagem, to get into his own Hands by little and little, the rest of our Things, not daring to take them from us openly, by force, for fear of the rest of his own Nation; by which it plainly appears, that he was a crafty designing Knave. His Son was kill'd by the *Miamis*, and finding he could not revenge himself on that Nation, vented his Passion upon us. Having thus Travell'd nineteen Days in our *Canoe* by Water, we came within six Leagues of the fall of *St. Anthony*, where they held an Assembly to consult what they should do with us; at last they separated, and gave us to three of their Chiefs, instead of three of their Sons who had been kill'd in the War: Then they seiz'd our *Canoe*, and took away all our Equipage; our *Canoe* they pull'd to pieces, their own they hid among the *Alders*; so that tho' we might have gone conveniently enough quite up into their Country by Water, yet were we obliged by their Conduct, to travel no less than sixty Leagues a-foot.

Our ordinary Marches were from break of Day, till ten at Night, and when we met with any Rivers we swam them, themselves (who for the most part are of an extraordinary size) carrying our Cloths and Equipage on their Heads. We never eat but once in twenty four Hours, and then nothing but a few scraps of Meat, dryed in smoak, after their

their Fashion, which they afforded us with a-bundance of Regret.

I was so weak that I often laid down, resolving rather to dye than follow these Savages any further, who Travell'd at a rate so extraordinary, as far surpasses the strength of any *European*; however, to hasten us, they sometimes set Fire to the dry Grass in the Meadows, thro' which we pass'd, so that our choice was, March or Burn; when we had thus Travell'd sixty Leagues a-foot, and undergone all the fatigues of Hunger, Thirst, and Cold, besides a thousand Outrages daily done to our Persons; as soon as we approach'd their Habitations, which are situated in Morasses inaccessible to their Enemies, they thought it a proper Time to divide the Merchandize taken from us. Here they were ready to fall out and cut one anothers Throats about the roll of *Martinico Tobacco*, which might still weigh about fifty Pound: Then arose a high dispute about the Distribution they were to make of our Persons; at last *Aquipaguetin*, as head of the Party, carry'd it; who turning towards me presented me his *Calumet* of Peace to smook in, receiving from me, at the same time, that which we had brought, and then adopted me for his Son, in the room of him he had lost in the War.

Two other Captains did the same by the two *Canoe Men*. This Separation was very grievous to us, tho' something allay'd by the

Satisfaction we had to find our Lives were safe. Being thus parted, the Savages led us away each to his own Village.

I came to *Aquipaguetin's* Habitation in the Month of *May*, 1680. The next Day he shewed me to six or seven of his Wives, telling them, that they were to esteem me as one of their Sons, and ordered those about him to give me the Title that was due to the Rank which I was to hold among my new Kindred.

I spent three Months very ill in this Place among the *Iffati* and *Nadoveffians*. My new Father gave me nothing to eat but a few wild Oats, five or six times a Week, and the Roes of dry'd Fish. He sent me into a Neighbouring Isle, with his Wives, Children and Servants, where I digged with a Pick-ax and Shovel, I had recover'd from those that robb'd us. Here we planted Tobacco and some *European* Pulse, which I brought from thence, and were highly priz'd by *Aquipaguetin*.

During my stay among them there arriv'd four Savages in Embassy, who said they were come above five hundred Leagues from the West, and had been four Moons upon the Way, and that they had marched without resting, except to Sleep or kill Game for their Subsistence.

They

They informed us, that the Nation of the *Assenipoulaes*, who lye North East from the *Iffati*, was not above six or seven Days Journey from us; that none of the Nations within their Knowledge, who lye to the West or North West of them, had any great Lakes about their Countries, which wery large, but only Rivers, which coming from the North run cross the Countries of their Neighbouring Nations, which border on the Confines on the Side of the great Lake; which, in their Language is the same as Sea. They farther assured us, that there were very few Forests in the Countries, through which they pass'd in their way hither; insomuch, that now and then they were so put to it for Fewel, that they were forc'd to make Fire of Bulls Dung to boil their Victuals. All these Circumstances make it appear, that whatever Efforts have been made for many Years past by the *English* and *Dutch*, the two Nations in the World who are the greatest Navigators, to find out a Passage thro' the Frozen Sea to *China*, and *Japan*, they have not yet been able to effect it. But by the help of my Discovery, and the Assistance of God, I do not doubt but a Passage may still be found, and that an easy one too. For Example, One may be Transported into the Pacifick Sea by Rivers, which are large, and capable of carrying great Vessels; and from thence it is easy to go to *China* and *Japan*, without crossing the Equinoctial Line; and in

all probability *Japan* is on the same Continent as *America*.

Towards the end of *July*, the *Seiur de Luth*, accompany'd with five Men arriv'd in our Camp from *Canada*, and because I had some knowledge of the Language of the *Iffati*, he desired that I might accompany him to the Villages of those People. I was very willing to undertake it, and we arrived at the Village of the *Iffati* the 14th of *August*, and having exchange'd our Commodities, we returned to the Camp towards the end of *September* we let them understand, that to procure them Iron and other Merchandize, that was useful to them, it was convenient that we should return to *Canada*, and that at a certain Time when we should agree on between us, they should come one half way with their *Furs*, and we the other half with our *European* Commodities. Upon this they held a great Council, and consented to our return. *Ovaficonde*, their chief Captain gave us some Bushels of wild Oats for our Subsistence on the way, having first regal'd us in the best manner he could. Their Oats are better and more wholesome than Rice: Then with a Pencil he mark'd down on a Sheet of Paper which I had left, the Course we were to keep for four hundred Leagues together.

We put our selves in two *Canoes*, being eight *Europeans* of us in all, we fell down the River *St. Francis* into the *Mississippi*, and thence went up the River *Ovifconfin*, Navigable

gible for large Vessels, above one hundred Leagues; then we carry'd our Canoes over Land half a League. Thus having made more than four hundred Leagues by Water, since our departure from the Country of the *Iffati*, we arriv'd at last at the great Bay of the *Puans*, where we found a great many *Canadians*, who were come hither to Trade; after two Days we departed, and after one hundred Leagues rowing, having coasted along the great Bay of *Puans*, we arriv'd at *Missilimakinak*, where we were forc'd to Winter.

We parted from *Missilimakinak*, in *Easter-Week*, and having rowed one hundred Leagues along the Side of the Lake *Huron*; we passed the Streights which are thirty Leagues thro', and the Lake of *St. Claire*, which is in the middle, thence over the Lake *Erie*, to the fall of *Niagara*, from whence we carry'd our Canoe two Leagues below, and came to the Lake of *Ontario* or *Frontenac*. When we came to the Fort, we were kindly receiv'd by Father *Luke Buisset*, and Mr. *La Fleur*, who had the Command of the Fort in the Absence of Mr. *La Salle*, but our Men being eager to return for *Canada*, we took leave and went for *Quebec*. In two Days we came to *Montreal*, sixty Leagues; Count *Frontenac* looking out of a Window, saw me in the Canoe, he was so kind as to come and meet me, and gave me the best reception that I cou'd expect from a Person of that Rank and Quality; he wonder'd to see me so much alter'd, being lean'd, tir'd and tann'd; he carry'd me to

to his own House, where I continu'd twelve Days to refresh my self. He forbid all his Servants to give me any thing to eat, lest I shou'd fall sick, if left to my own Discretion, after such long Hardships, and gave me himself what he thought best; when I desired his Permission to go to *Quebec*, he appointed two of his Guards, who understood very well to manage a *Canoe*, to carry me thither from whence, soon after, I return'd to *Europe*.

F I N I S.



