

plied that he did, having been a slave among them and having even been baptized. They engaged him to guide them, he hoping to secure his liberty. He agreed to do so and they travelled that day 25 miles to get away from the Indians.

"On the 10th, they got sight of the Spanish mountains, at a distance of more than 25 miles from them, and on the 12th they camped at the first mountain. The 13th they camped with three lodges of Indians to whom they made a small present.

"On the 14th they found still another river, which they named Red River, but which in all probability is still another branch of the Arkansas, and 53 miles from there they found the first Spanish post, which is a mission called Piquouris.

"On the 15th they had met three Indians to whom they had given a letter for the commandant at Taos, who had sent to them the next day some mutton and very fine wheat bread.

"While they were about three miles from the first post, the commandant and the priest came out to them with a crowd of people, who received them very kindly and even enthusiastically according to their story.

"On the 21st, they left Piquouris and at noon arrived at another mission called St. Croix. After dinner they passed by another one called Cagnada, and they camped at a country village called Sainte Marie, where they were very well received by the Spaniards.

"On the 22nd they arrived at Santa Fe, having made 662½ miles from the river of the Panimahas. The certificate hereto attached shows how they were received and how they lived during the nine months they were there while waiting for word from the viceroy of Mexico. it is not strange that they had to wait so long because it is 1,250 miles by land from Santa Fe to Old Mexico, and only one caravan a year makes the journey.

"The reply of the viceroy was, according to the report of these Canadians, to try to have them remain in the country, and they thought there was the design to employ them in making the exploration of a region, which, according to the tradition, true or false, of the Indians of that land, is distant three months travel to the west, where they said there were people dressed in silk who lived in great cities upon the coast of the sea. However that may be, the Canadians preferred to return, and they were permitted to leave with the letters, copy of which is hereto attached.

"Santa Fe, according to their re-

port, is a city built of wood, and without any fortification. It has possibly 800 Spanish families or mixed bloods, and round about are a number of Indian villages, in each one of which is a priest who conducts the mission. There are only 80 soldiers in the garrison, poorly trained and poorly armed. There are some mines very near there, which are not worked. There are others in the province which are held in the name of the king of Spain, and from which the silver is transported every year to Old Mexico by caravan.

"It seems by one of the letters attached, that the governors seize merchandise which comes there, and carry on the little commerce which is done there, which the priests and others would like to carry on.

"The nation Lalitane spoken of in the journal is not Christian, like the other neighboring nations, but it is at peace with the Spaniards. The Canadians assert that the little merchandise which they have distributed to them has had a great effect there, and that this nation would be entirely for us if we had some trading establishment in the country.

"May first, 1740, the explorers, seven in number, one having married in the country, set out from Santa Fe, with the design of finding the Mississippi, and returning to New Orleans by a road opposite to that one which they had taken.

"On the second they arrived at a mission named Pequos, where they remained two days.

"On the 4th they set out from there and camped on a river of the same name. They thought that the river might be a branch of the Red River or the Arkansas. They followed it on the 5th and left it on the 6th. On the 7th they came to another stream running in the same direction as the first which they named River Jument [Mare River]. They left that and struck across the country, taking the direction which they had in mind, and on the 10th came to a third river which they thought must flow into the Red or Arkansas, and which they believed was the same branch on which they had encountered higher up, when going to Santa Fe, the first evidences of the Spaniards. They were then about 100 miles from that city, and they thought one would have to go as far as that place when they returned, in order to make certain this discovery.

"On the 11th, 12th, 13th, they followed this river. On this last day three of the seven took the resolution to leave their comrades in order to return by the route of the Panis, and thence to the Illinois, which they have done, according to letters from the last place by this post, and the

four others persisted in their resolution to come here. The same day they met a party of Laitanes with whom they camped.

"On the 15th, following the same river, they found a river of the Laitanes where they saw many horses. There they camped. The Indians made a feast for them and gave them some horses in exchange for knives and other trifles.

"They continued following the stream until the 22nd. The night of that day they lost six horses. From the 22nd to the 30th they went into the land a little more and this day they met two male and three female Padokas, whom they shook hands with, but a little time afterward fear seized the Indians, who threw away the meat with which they were loaded and fled with their women without it being possible to bring them back.

"June 8th they returned to the bank of the river, which they followed until the 14th. The 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th, they remained in camp, and having deliberated on the course which the river seemed to take, they resolved to abandon eighteen horses and to make canoes of elm bark to travel in. This was done, although they had only two knives among the four. They had travelled then 550 miles by land from Santa Fe.

"On the 20th they embarked in two little canoes, and made 25 miles, the river not having much current.

"On the 21st they made the same distance. They saw two fine rivers flowing into the stream they were on, which might have been the Pequos and Jument which they had crossed near Santa Fe. At length on the 24th they were agreeably surprised to find themselves on the headwaters of the Arkansas. They had made then 105 miles with canoe. They found below the fork a cabin of Canadians who were hunting to procure meat for salting. As they had nothing left but their arms and some ammunition, they went on the chase with the others, and loaded a pirogue with salt meat, with which they went down to Arkansas Fort and from there to New Orleans."

Arrival of the Eight Frenchmen at Santa Fe, July 24, 1739.

[Copy of a certificate given at Santa Fe to seven Frenchmen by General Jean Paez Hurtado, mayor, major and military captain of the capital city of Santa Fe and its jurisdiction, lieutenant governor and captain general of the kingdom of New Mexico and its provinces.]

"I certify, so far as I am able, to Captain Don Louis of Saint-Denis, who