

worst of all treacheries. I have lost my son, the Reverend Father, and all my Frenchmen, which I shall lament all my life."

An examination of these various accounts will reveal a considerable diversity of opinion as to the circumstances which led up to and attended the massacre, and the causes which induced the Sioux to attack a party of Frenchmen. Much of this disparity may be attributed to the radically different points of view of those whose evidence has been adduced; some of it is explainable by the fact that the various statements were written at widely different times and places. Making due allowance for these circumstances, and weighing carefully the evidence of the various witnesses, the reader will, I think, find it possible to extract from these various documents a fairly complete and accurate account of this most disastrous incident in the search for the Western Sea—the tragedy of the Lake of the Woods.