d compared their very erroneously only copied from

da they continued which anyknow-hough they were with Lake Supe-burthen thereon, covered many eriflands and bays, at I coafted it in offession of them, d in the same unime time destroyart of the hulk of just at the open-

ient to deter me for fetting out. nowledge of the il productions of e Missisppi, was t, which extends broadest part be-Had I been able d to government ut the Straits of Sir Francis Drake, convinced would assage, or a comcific Ocean. n fought for, but, a fettlement on good purpofes, t might occasion. trade, and proh paffage for conettlements in the dious voyage by llan will allow of. enterprize may e concurrence of scheme, I have will some time he unhappy diviin and America, ipt is repeated; ed on with propriety,

priety, those who are so fortunate as to succeed, will reap, exclusive of the national advantages that must ensue, emoluments beyond their most fanguine expectations. And whilst their spirits are elated by their success, perhaps they may bestow some commendations and blessings on the person that first pointed out to them the way. These, though but a shadowy recompence for all my toil, I shall receive with pleasure.

To what power or authority this new world will become dependent, after it has arisen from its present uncultivated state, time alone can discover. But as the seat of Empire from time immemorial has been gradually progressive towards the West, there is no doubt but that at some future period, mighty kingdoms will emerge from these wildernesses, and stately palaces and solemn temples, with gilded spires reaching the skies, supplant the Indian huts, whose only decorations are the barba-

rous trophies of their vanquished enemies.

As some of the preceeding passages have already informed the reader that the plan I had laid down for penetrating to the Pacific Ocean, proved abortive, it is necessary to add, that this proceeded not from its impracticability (for the farther I went the more convinced I was that it could certainly be accomplished) but from unforeseen disappointments. However, I proceeded fo far, that I was able to make such discoveries as will be useful in any future attempt, and prove a good foundation for some more fortunate successor to build upon. These I shall now lay before the public in the following pages; and am fatisfied that the greatest part of them have never been published by any perfon that has hitherto treated of the interior nations of the Indians; particularly, the account I give of the Naudowessies, and the fituation of the heads of the four great rivers that take their rise within a few leagues of each other, nearly about the centre of this great continent; viz. The River Bourbon, which empties itself into Hudson's Bay; the waters of Saint Lawrence; the Missifippi, and the River Oregon, or the River of the West, that falls into the Pacific Ocean, at the Straits of Annian.

The impediments that occasioned my returning, before I had accomplished my purposes, were these. On my arrival at Michillimackinac, the remotest English post, in September 1766, I applied to Mr. Rogers, who was then governor of it, to surnish me with a proper assortment of goods, as presents for the Indians who inhabit the track I intended to pursue. He did this only in part; but promised to supply me with such as were necessary, when I reached the Falls of Saint Anthony. I afterwards learned that the governor suffilled his promise in ordering the goods to be delivered to me; but those to whose care he intrusted them, instead of conforming to his orders, disposed of them else-

where.

Disappointed in my expectations from this quarter, I thought it necessary to return to La Prairié Le Chien; for it was impossible to proceed any further without presents to ensure me a fa-