


his quest of the Western Sea, his three sons—Jean, Pierre, afterwards known as the Chevalier, and Francois, aged respectively eighteen, seventeen and sixteen—accompanied him. They hoped to find that the Western Sea, about which Pierre de la Verendrye had heard much talk from Indians who had come from the West to the trading post at Nipigon, on Lake Superior, of which he was in command from 1726 until 1729, would connect the French domain on the Gulf of Mexico with the New France of Canada, and at the same time open up a way to the Orient.

LL the rainbow tints of "la gloire" invested the quest, but the rainbow hopes had also a practical basis of profits. Merchants of Montreal had advanced goods for trade with the Indians on the way to the Western Sea. The fur trade at that time yielded immense profits. Traders who had gone out with goods worth about \$2,000 in modern money had returned in three years with furs worth, in the money of today, a quarter of a million dollars. Pierre de la Verendrye had secured from the

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