

VOYAGES AND EXPLORATIONS

at the 53d degree and lost some ships, as their report proves. These things making me believe what he said was true, I then made a report of it to the Chancellor; and showed it to Marshal de Brissac, President Jeannin and other Seigneurs of the Court, who told me that I must see it myself. That was why I asked Sieur Georges, a merchant of La Rochelle, to give him a passage in his ship, which he willingly did; and when he was there he questioned him as to why he was making the voyage. And, since it was of no advantage to him, he asked him if he expected some salary, to which he answered that he did not, and that he did not expect anything except from the King, and that he undertook the voyage only to show me the Northern Sea, which he had seen; and he made an affidavit of this at La Rochelle before two notaries.

Now, as I was taking leave, on Whitsunday,⁷ of all the principal men, to whose prayers I commended myself, and of all the rest, I said to him, in their presence, that if what he had told me before was not true, he must not give me the trouble of undertaking the journey, to make which one must run many risks. Once more he asserted

⁷May 26 in 1613. L.