

improbable that, if the letter of the 8th June was among the documents in the Colonial or other Archives at Paris, it would have escaped the notice of Parkman, and also of the late Mr. Marmette and of Mr. Richard, who, on behalf of the Canadian Archives, made exhaustive searches through the Colonial papers in the various departments of the French Government for anything that might have a bearing, direct or indirect, upon the history of New France.

The other document mentioned as forming the basis of Beauharnois' report—the Relation of Bourassa—is, however, in the Canadian Archives. It reads as follows:—¹

"A *voyageur*, Bourassa by name, relates that on June 3rd, 1736, having set out the fifth (of the band) from Fort St. Charles, at the Lake of the Woods, for Michilimakinac, met the following morning, just as he was about to push off from shore, thirty canoes manned by ninety or a hundred warriors, who surrounded and disarmed him and his companions, and plundered their stores. When they had learnt from him that under the curtain² of Monsieur de la Véranderie's Fort there were five or six wigwams of Cristinaux, against whom they had set out on the warpath, they released him, and departed with the intention of capturing the encampment. They told Bourassa, however, to wait for them, and at their return they would restore his arms. This he did not think advisable to do; on the contrary, he hurried to Michilimakinac, while the Sioux, on their side, pushed on to Fort St. Charles, where they failed to find the five wigwams of Cristinaux who had decamped, so they retraced their steps.

"Meanwhile, twenty *voyageurs*, who had lately arrived from Lake Alepimigon, were on their way to Michilimakinac. At a day's journey from there (Lake Alepimigon)³ they were met by that same band of Sioux, who massacred them all.

"Among the slain were the young Sieur de la Véranderie and Father Auneau, the missionary.

¹ This document is entitled "Affaire du meurtre de vingt-un voyageurs arrive au Lac des Bois, au mois de juin 1736." A copy is among the MSS. in the Canadian Archives: Nouvelle France, Vol. 15. Postes des Pays de l'Ouest, 1679-1759, pp. 340-343.

² The *curtain* is the line of enclosure between two bastions.

³ The writer of this report was evidently somewhat at sea as to his geography. A reference to the accompanying map will show that Lake Alepimigon (the modern Lake Nepigon) is north of Lake Superior, while the Lake of the Woods is a considerable distance to the westward—certainly a number of days' journey as men travelled in those days. In any case, the *voyageurs* were travelling east, and therefore could not possibly have come from Lake Alepimigon to the Lake of the Woods. As a matter of fact, they had come from Fort St. Charles, on the western side of the Lake of the Woods.