



Map published in Paris, in 1755, showing the supposed Western Sea, with approaches to the Great Forked River (the Mississippi) and the Great Lakes.



THE story of the explorations of Pierre de la Verendrye and his sons is the story of the search for the Western Sea, which, it was believed in their time, was no more than a narrow strait—or, at most a sea of moderate extent, in comparison with the Atlantic—between this continent and Asia. Columbus,

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