

or kill game for their subsistence, and had not seen or passed over any great lake; by which phrase they always mean the sea.

They farther informed us, that the nation of the Assenipoulaes, who lie northeast from the Issati, was not above six or seven days' journey from us; that none of the nations within their knowledge, who lie to the west or northwest of them, had any great lake about their countries, which were very large, but only rivers, which, coming from the north, run across the countries of their neighbouring nations which border on their confines on the side of the great lake, which in their language is the same as sea. They farther assured us, that there were very few forests in the countries through which they passed in their way hither, insomuch that now and then they were so put to it for fuel, that they were forced to make fires of bulls' dung to boil their victuals. All these circumstances make it appear, that there is no such place as the streights of Anian, as we usually see them set down in maps. And whatever efforts have been made for many years past by the English and Dutch, the two nations of the world who are the greatest navigators, to find out a passage to China and Japan through the frozen sea, they have not yet been able to effect it. But, by the help of my discovery, and the assistance of God, I doubt not but a passage may still be found, and that an easy one too. For example; one may be transported into the Pacifick sea by rivers which are large and capable of carrying great vessels, and from thence it is easy to go to China and Japan without crossing the equinoctial line; and in all

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