

A party of the Bows accompanied the Chevalier and his brother back to the territory of the Choke Cherry Indians, where they picked up La Londette and Miotte. They marched homeward along the valley of the Upper Missouri, through the country of the Sioux, with whom the Bows were allied. After burying the lead tablet on the bank of the river, they journeyed back to Fort la Reine, which had been built by their father, on the site of the present city of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, sixty miles west of Winnipeg, where he was awaiting them, having heard nothing of them for nearly two years. They arrived at Fort la Reine on July 2, 1743. For thirteen years father and sons had followed the dream of a Western Sea. They had found a sea of prairie, a sea of mountains and two great rivers, the Saskatchewan and the Missouri. It remained for later followers in their footsteps to arrive at the Pacific—"the great water, too bitter to drink, beyond the mountains of the setting sun."

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