

Beauharnois reports Lavérendrye's arrival at Fort St. Charles,¹ after an enforced wintering at Kamanistiquoya; the illness of Lavérendrye's nephew, La Jemeraye; and Lavérendrye's suggestion that a new post should be established to the south of Lac des Prairies, which was thought to be a very advantageous situation for the fur trade; and then he goes on to say:—

"He (Lavérendrye) wrote me from the same place (Fort St. Charles) on the 8th of the same month (June, 1736), and he informs me that the canoes had just arrived from Kamanistiquoya, and that they had not met the party which had left on the 5th for Missilimakinac, led by his eldest son, and amongst whom were Father Auneau and twenty-two hired men. He . . . conveys to me his fear that this party was exterminated by the Sioux of the Prairie.

"I have since learned, monseigneur, that the party had been totally destroyed by these Indians, and here are the particulars of the occurrence. You must remember, monseigneur, that during the year 1734, Sieur de la Veranderie gave me a memorandum to be sent to you, which memorandum you approved last year, and in which he speaks to the Indians in the following terms:—"I am not opposed to your waging war against the Maskoutins Poïanes, your enemies." In the same memorandum it is stated that he gave them his son to lead them."

Lavérendrye's son did accompany the Indians, in their expedition against the Maskoutins Poïanes, but only for a short distance, when he returned to the fort. The Maskoutins Poïanes, however, discovered his trail, and attributed to him the leadership of the hostile party. This, in the opinion of Beauharnois, was the immediate cause of the subsequent massacre.

"After having carefully read," continues the Governor, "the memorandum of the Sieur de la Veranderie, I enquired from some old *voyageurs* who the Maskoutins Poïanes were. They told me that they were the Sioux of the Prairie. I immediately understood the misfortune which had taken place, and gave him (Veranderie) strict instructions not to send in the future any more French to war against

¹ In a letter from Father Auneau to Father Boivin (*Auneau Collection*, p. 72), he gives this description of Fort St. Charles:

"It is merely an enclosure made with four rows of posts, from twelve to fifteen feet in height, in the form of an oblong square, within which are a few rough cabins constructed of logs and clay and covered with bark."

Father Jones, who edits these letters, adds the following footnote:—

"The probable site of Fort St. Charles was a few miles up the bay now known as "North-West Angle Inlet." At the entrance of this bay, which begins at American Point, lies Gucketé Island. The latitude of the fort would be about 49° 6', and its longitude west of Greenwich 95° 4', or perhaps a few minutes further west."