

Before the acquisition of Louisiana by the United States, the jealous disposition of the Spaniards debarred all adventures for discoveries from that quarter.

These impediments would compel the discoveries of the western part of the continent, to be made by a voyage by the way of Cape Horn, which would be too long, arduous, and expensive to entice the enterprize.

In the year 1769, the celebrated traveller Alexander Mackenzie embarked from Fort Chepewyan, in latitude 55 deg. N. longitude 110 deg. W. from Greenwich, and with the greatest fortitude, under embarrassing and perilous circumstances, he explored with assiduity the northern region to nearly the 70th degree of north latitude, where obstruction by ice, compelled him to return to Fort Chepewyan. Thence he ascended the Peace River to its source, and thence to the Pacific Ocean; making many discoveries, which he judiciously narrated in his Journal.

The following statement of the commerce of the Missouri, is made by a gentleman, which will sufficiently show the advantages that arise from it.

“ The products which are drawn from the Missouri, are obtained from the Indians and hunters in exchange for merchandize. They may be classed according to the subjoined table.

			d. c.	dols.	cts.
Castor	-	- 12281 lbs.	at 1 20	14737	20
Otters	-	- 1267 skins	4 —	5068	—
Foxes	}	-	-	0 50	401 —
Pouha Foxes					
Tyger Cats		- 802 skins	0 50	401	—
Raccoons	-	- 4248 skins	0 25	1062	—
Bears, black, grey, and yellow	}	-	-	2 —	5082 —
Pucea	-	- 2541 skins	2 —	5082	—
Carried forward				<u>31432</u>	<u>20</u>