

1760 ; and, in the spring of the following year, a few English and French traders sent goods to the borders of Lake Superior, and a few went as far North as the Rainy Lake, where they continued till the year 1763, when the Post at Michilimackinac was taken by the Indians. This event, and the Indian war by which it was occasioned, produced a temporary suspension of the trade ; and it was not till the year 1771, that the British traders could safely traffic as far as the Saskatchewan, on which river the most remote of the French Posts was situated. The subsequent progress of the Fur Traders in the interior, has corresponded with the wishes of the Indians to deal with them, and the success they met with in their first enterprizes in a new region.

At the commencement of the English Trade, the whole was conducted by the unsupported efforts of individuals. The trader, who passed one winter with a newly discovered nation or band of Indians, or on some spot favourable to his traffic, heard, in the course of it, of Indians still more remote, among whom provisions might be obtained, and trade pursued, with little danger of competition. To the neighbourhood of these
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