

villages with thirty-two men, traced the Missouri to the mountains, penetrated the wastes beyond, and made their way to the Pacific. The first stages of that remarkable exploration were anticipated by the brothers La Verendrye. They did not find the Pacific, but they discovered the Rocky Mountains, or at least that part of them to which the name properly belongs; for the southern continuation of the great range had long been known to the Spaniards. Their bold adventure was achieved, not at the charge of a Government, but at their own cost and that of their father; not with a band of well equipped men, but with only two followers."



T was on New Year's day, 1743, that the Chevalier de la Verendrye, travelling with a party of warriors of the Indian tribe which he names in his journal the Gens de l'Arc, or Bow Indians, saw for the first time on the Western horizon, "more like clouds than mountains," high-piled mountain masses. That first view of the far sky-line of the Bighorn range increased greatly his eagerness to press

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