
PIERRE GAUTIER DE LA VERENDRYE

proach him for the losses they sustained. He was now broken in health, and what little means he had possessed were all swallowed up in maintaining his posts and meeting the expenses of the expedition in search of the Western Sea. In vain the new governor, de la Galissonnière, who alone recognized the true worth of his unselfish ambition, appealed to the Colonial Minister for aid to enable him to pursue his explorations. In recognition of his services, however, the King was pleased to confer upon him, in 1749, the much-coveted cross of the Order of St. Louis.

A few months later, although infirm, without means, and haunted by the experiences of a life clouded with losses and disappointments, La Vérendrye roused all his energies for one supreme effort to reach the goal of his desires, and was on the eve of again setting out for the West, when that last great summons, which brooks no delay, put an end to his dream of standing on the shores of the great sea which for twenty-two years he had labored in vain to find.

The same ill-fortune that pursued La Vérendrye to the closing years of his life followed his sons after his death. Chevalier had discovered the Saskatchewan, and it was his intention to follow it to the mountains, build a