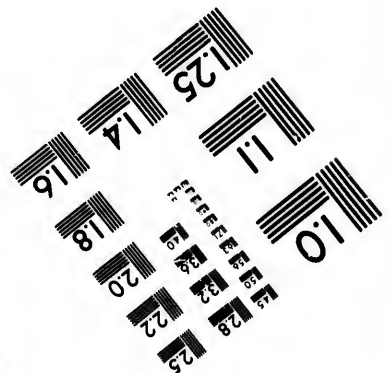
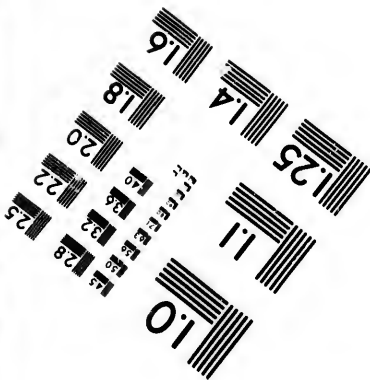
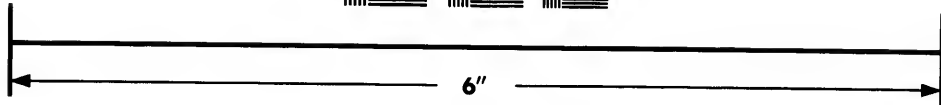
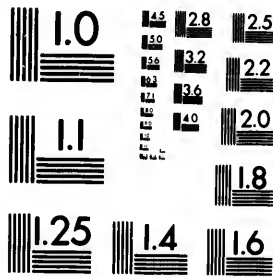


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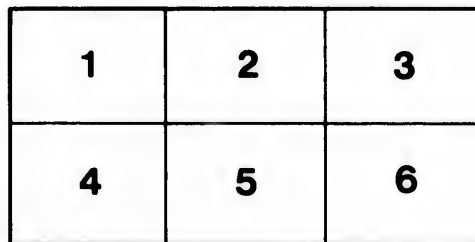
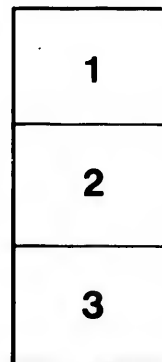
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EXPLORATIONS DU NORD-OUEST.

JOURNAL DE LAVERENDRYE.

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NORTH-WESTERN EXPLORATIONS.

JOURNAL OF LAVERENDRYE.

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1738-39.

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## NOTE A.

## EXPLORATIONS DU NORD-OUEST.

No. 1.—JOURNAL DE LAVERENDRYE 1738-39.

(Les mots ainsi marqués [ ] manquent dans le texte, la fin des lignes, au verso, étant rongée par le temps.)

(Original.)

Journal en forme de Letre, depuis le 20 de juillét 1738. de mon Despard de michilimakina jusq'en may 1739. Envoyé à Monsieur le Marquis de Beauharnois, Commandeur des ordres militaire de St Louis, Gouverneur et Lieutenant Général de toute la Nouvelle-France terres et pais de la Louisiane, par son très humble serviteur Laverendrye, Lieutenant d'une Compagnie du Detachement de la marine En Canada, chargé de ses ordres pour la Découverte de la mer d'ouést.

J'eus l'honneur Monsieur L'année dernière de vous marquer mon Despard de michilimakina, en six Canots, vingt-deux hommes Esquipées d'une manière à pouvoir faire grande diligence, je me rendis au pais plats le premier d'aoust le matin, le douzième de mon Despard, j'y arresté environ trois heures pour parler aux sauvages de votre part, je n'y trouvé que le chef de gamanestigouya quelque vieillard, peu de jeunes gens,—j'auois déjà scû qu'il estoient tous partis pour aller chez les Sioux, je fis assembler ce qu'il y auoit d'hommes, Leurs fis un present de tabac et bléd qu'il estime plus que les marchandises que L'on leurs donne à grand marché, je commencé mon discours par les blamer de ce qu'ils estoient allés en guerre, contre la parole qu'ils m'auoient donnée l'année dernière en passant chez eux, de ne rien entreprendre que à mon retour que je Leurs apportois votre parole, que vous n'estiés point dans le sentiment pour le present que l'on fit guerre, qu'on chaquun se tient tranquile sur leurs terres, que vous aviez vos raisons pour cela vous les feriez auertir si vous aviez besoin de leurs services, je leurs fit part ensuite des Nouuelles dont ils sont fort curieux.

Le Chef me répondit sur l'heure, mon père, ne sois pas fâché contre nous, le partis s'est leués contre nostre volonté, C'est le Canard nom sauvage de Mr de la plante, qui a voulu dire vraye, parlant avec des beaux presents de la part de nôtre père, ce que tu nous voye icy nous n'avons point voulu l'escouter, atendant ton retour, nous ne sommes pas des enfans pour auoir deux paroles, tu à été longtems avec nous tu nous dois conoistre, nous auons toujours esté ataché à nostre père, nous le serons toujours, je les encouragés dans ces bons sentiments, de n'escouter par la suite que des chefs chargés de vos ordres, de bien chasser pour fournir le besoin à leurs famille, que par vêtre bonté les françois leurs venoit aportér sur leurs terres, je leurs dis adieu voulant profiter d'un bon temps le reste du jour, j'arrivai à gamanestigouya Le 5. Je fis publier vos ordres et laissé copie aux françois qui gardoit le fort ; Concernant ce poste et de tekamamihouenne pour estre remis à Mr de Lamarque qui y deuoit arriver au premier jour, je partis Le 6. au matin, me rendis au Lac de tekamamihouenne, Le 22 du present mois, je trouée vn chef de guerre, Monsony, avec une petite bande qui m'atendoit près du petit destroit dans le dit lac ils me prierent de vouloir bien camper de bon heure, pour leurs faire part des nouvelles, je leurs accordés et leurs fis un present de votre part, Leurs fis ensuite la Lecture des responcees, que vous aviés eu la bonté de faire, à leurs paroles de se tenir tranquiles pour le présent de bien garder leurs terres, enfin que les françois qui venoient de si loing leurs apporter leurs besoin, trouvasse toujours le chemin libre, le chef me répondit—je te remercy mon père, d'avoir eu pitié de nous, je vais en porter la nouvelle à tous nos gens qui sont après

## NOTE A.

## NORTH-WESTERN EXPLORATIONS.

No. 1.—JOURNAL OF LAVERENDRYE, 1738-39.

*(Translation)*

Journal in the form of a letter, from the 20th of July, 1738, date of my departure from Michilimakinak, to May, 1739, sent to the Marquis de Beauharnois, Commander of the Military Order of St. Louis, Governor and Lieutenant General of the whole of New France, lands and country of Louisiana, by his very humble servant Laverendrye, lieutenant of a company of the detachment of the marine in Canada, commissioned by his orders for the discovery of the Western Sea.

I had the honour, Sir, last year to notify you of my departure from Michilimakinak in six canoes, twenty-two men, so fitted out as to be capable of making great speed. I reached the flat lands on the morning of the first of August, the twelfth day after leaving. I stopped there about three hours to speak to the Indians as your representative. I found there only the chief of the Gamanestigouya, a few old and a few young people. I had already known that they had all left to go among the Sioux. I caused to be assembled what men there were, made them a present of tobacco and wheat, which they value more than merchandise, which is given to them cheap. I began my speech by finding fault with them for going to war against the word they had given me last year when passing among them, to undertake nothing till my return; that I brought them your word that you were not for the present inclined to have war; that every one should keep quiet on his lands; that you had your reasons for this; you would have them warned if you required their services. I then communicated news about which they are very curious.

The chief answered me at once: My father, be not vexed with us; parties have been raised against our will. It is the Canard (Duck, Indian name of M. LaPlante) who wished it, to tell the truth, speaking with fine presents from our father, which thou seest here with us. We did not wish to listen, expecting thy return; we are not children to have two words; thou hast been long with us; thou shouldest know us; we have always been attached to our father; we shall always be so. I encouraged them in these good dispositions, to listen after this only to chiefs entrusted with your orders, to hunt well in order to supply the wants of their families, that the French would bring your bounty to them upon their own land. I bade them adieu, wishing to take advantage of the good weather for the rest of the day. I arrived on the 5th at Gamanestigouya. I had your orders published and left a copy with the French who keep the fort, concerning that post and that of Tekamamihouenne, to be handed to M. de Lamarque, who was to arrive there at an early day. I left on the morning of the 6th, and went to the Lake Tekamamihouenne. On the 22nd of the present month I found a war chief, Monsony, with a small band, who was expecting me near the little straight on the said Lake. They begged me to camp early to give them the news. I did so and made them a present in your name, then read to them the replies which you had had the goodness to make to their speeches to keep quiet for the present, to take good care of their lands, so that the French, who came from so long a distance to supply their wants, should always find the road open. The chief answered me: I thank thee, my father,



à faire de la folle avoine, je [les] rendrés bien joyeux de ton retour, et en leurs contant la volonté de nostre père des paroles que tu nous a apporté et le recit que les vieux vient de me faire, tant de notre père, que de tout ce qu'il à veü là-bas, tu vas trouver bien du monde à ton fort du lac des bois, tous les chefs ti atende, en finissant de leurs parler, je leurs recommandé cestre toujours bien fidel aux françois, ne point oublier vostre parole bien chasser pour contenter les trésteurs, il me répondit auée de grande acclamations de reconnoissance, en massurant ne jamais oublier tout ce que je luy avois dit, je l'encouragé de mon mieux me rendis au fort St-Charles, lac des bois. le 31. je n'y trouée point LaColle chef des Monsony, je l'envoyés auertir, voulant parler à [tous] Les chefs ensemble, je diférés à leurs parler jusqueaux 3 de septembre ou je rassemblée tous les principeaux dans ma Chambre, leur fis [vn] présent de vostre part, aux trois chefs, LaColle, LamiCoine et le Chenail dont j'ay parlé plusieurs fois dans mes mémoires précédents, je commencée par les roneées à leurs paroles que vous auiés eu la [bonté] de leurs faire apuyant fort sur chaque article, enfin de leurs faire comprendre la bonté que vous auiés pour eux, que tout ce que [vous] leurs permetiés leurs estoit très assuré, autant que de leurs costé ils seroient obéissants a oastre paroles, je scauois que le vieux que j'avois mené auée moy chargé de leurs paroles quoique les mains vide, leurs avoit fait vn fidèle raport des bontés que [vous] auiés eu de luy, il ne cessoit de faire vostre Eloge, qu'ils avoient vn bon père qu'il falloit menagér eu faisant sa volonté, La Colle répondit pour tous les autres, qu'il ne cessoit de pleurer mon fils et tous les françois que le lac estoit encor rouge de leur s[ang] qui demandait vengeance, ce qu'il n'avoit encore peu faire comme il auroit souhaité, ce n'estoit point à eux gens sans esprit à demander les raisons que vous auiés, de se tenir tranquiles po[ur] Le présent qu'ils estoit enfans obéissants, accorderoît à vostre nolonté, garderoit Leurs terres, comme vous leur ordoniés, esperant toujours que vous tirerés vengeance par la suite du malheureux coup que Les Sioux avoit fait sur leurs terres, cependant que vous estiés maître de chatier comme de pardonner, qu'il vous remercioit aux noms de tous et vous prioit de les reconnoître pour vos véritables enfans, qu'ils nous seroit toujours fidèles, vous leur demandiés de garder leurs terres, c'estoit Leurs interest, Lamicoine me fit de grands remerciements du bon soin que j'avois eu de son frere, c'est du vieux que j'avois menés avec moi qu'il avoit apreëndé de ne le plus renoir, me priant de vous assurer de sa reconnoissance, qu'il noubliroit de sa vie le bien que vous aviés fait à son frere, qu'il seroit luy et les siens toujours fort atachés aux françois, que mon retour avoit apporté la joye à tout que Leur joye ne seroit pas longue selon ce que son frere luy avoit dit que j'allois inerner bien loing, qu'il me prioit de ne les point abandonner, si je voulois m'esloigner d'eux de leurs laisser vn de mes enfans, qu'il voudroit estre en pouvoir de me suivre qui le feroit d'un grand cœur, que son frere et son neveu qui s'atendoit à me suivre tiendroît sa place, je les encouragés à tenir leurs paroles et de bien chasser enfin de fournir aux besoins de leurs familles, que si j'allois plus loing c'estoit vôte volonté, je voulois augmenter le nombre de nos enfans, que je leur laissois mon fils aynée à ma place, qui estoit adopté de leurs nations, leurs annonceroit vostre parole. Le conseil finit par de grand remerciements, je songés ensuite à me disposés à partir, je fis recevoir mon fils aynée commandant a mon apsence et fis publier un ordre, amenant les deux autres avec moy, je diféré à partir jusques aux 11 de septembre, attendant Mr de Lamarque à qui j'avois promis de ne point presér ma marehe pour luy donner occasion de me joindre m'ayant promis à michilimakina de faire diligence et cela pour venir avec moy dans l'automne à la Descouverte des mantannes que si denant on apeloit ouachipouanne selon les monsor Courtchouatte, Les Crix, mantannes c'est le nom de la nations—me voyant au dix du mois qu'il n'ariuoit point, et tout en bon ordre tant pour le fort que pour mon despard, je partis le 11. Comme j'ay déjà marquée esperant qu'il me vienderoit joindre assez tost pour venir avec moy, j'arrivée au fort de morpas, [Maurepas] le 22. ou je fis la reueu des armes publié vos ordres concernant le dit poste, en donés copie à Mr de Louièrre commis pour ces Messieurs Destachés cinq de ses hommes pour venir avec moy, comme j'éstois convenu, je les-ois à Mr de Louièrre 9 hommes, je me rendis à la fourche des assiliboiles Le 24. ou

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for having had pity on us. I will carry the news to all our people who are gone for the wild rice; I shall make them joyful at thy return and in relating to them the will of our father, with the words thou hast brought and the account which the old man has given me, as well of our father as of all he has seen below. Thou wilt find many people at thy fort of Lake of the Woods; all the chiefs expect thee. In finishing my speech to them, I recommended them to continue very faithful to the French, not to forget your words, to hunt well, so as to satisfy the traders. He answered with loud acclamations of gratitude, assuring me that he would never forget all that I had told him. I did my best to encourage him and went to Fort St. Charles, Lake of the Woods. On the 31st I did not find Lacolle, chief of the Monsony; I sent to notify him. Wishing to speak to all the chiefs together, I deferred speaking to them till the 3rd of September, when I collected all the headmen in my room, and made a present in your name to the three chiefs, Lacolle Lamicoine and LeChenail, of whom I have several times spoken in my previous journals. I began by the answers to their speeches, which you had had the goodness to make, emphasizing strongly each paragraph, in order to make them understand the [kindness] you felt for them; that all [you] had allowed them was well assured to them, so long as they on their side should be obedient to your word. I knew that the old man whom I had brought with me, entrusted with their words, although with empty hands, had made a faithful report to them of the kindness [you] had shown him; he constantly sang your praises; that they had a good father, who should be pleased by doing his will. LaColle answered for all the others, that he did not cease to weep for my son and all the French men; that the lake was still red with their [blood], which called for vengeance, which he had not been able to take as he wished. It was not for them, people without intellect, to ask your reasons for keeping them quiet for the present; that they were obedient children; agreed to your will; would keep their lands as you ordered them, still hoping that you would obtain vengeance at some future time for the miserable stroke the Sioux had made on their lands. However, you were the master to punish or to pardon; that he thanked you in the name of all and prayed you to acknowledge them as your true children; that they would always be faithful to us; you ordered them to keep their lands; that was to their interest. Lamicoine gave profuse thanks for the great care I had had of his brother. It was from the old man whom I had brought with me that he had learned he would never see him more, begging me to assure you of his gratitude; that whilst he lived he would not forget the good you had done to his brother; that it would be for him and his to be always attached to the French; that my return had brought joy to all; that their joy would not be long continued, as according to what his brother had told him, I was going to winter a long way off; that he prayed me not to abandon them; if I wished to go far away from them to leave one of my children; that he wished it was in his power to follow me; that he would do so heartily; that his brother and his nephew who expected to follow me, would take his place. I encouraged them to keep their word and to hunt well to supply the wants of their families; that I was going further on; that was your will; I wished to increase the number of your children; that I left my eldest son with them in my place, who was adopted by the nations and would inform them of your words. The council ended with many thanks. I then thought of preparing to leave; had my son received as commandant in my absence, and had an order published. Taking the two others with me, I deferred leaving until the 11th of September, waiting for Mr. Lamarque, to whom I had promised not to hasten, so as to give him the opportunity of joining me, he having promised me at Michilimakinak to make haste, so that he might come with me in the autumn for the discovery of the Mandans, who were formerly called Ouachipouanne, according to the Monsony, Courtehouatte, Crees, Mandans: these are the names of the nation. Seeing on the 10th of the month that he had not arrived, and everything being in good order, as well at the fort as for my departure, I left on the 11th, as I have already stated, hoping that he would join me soon to come with me. I arrived at Fort Marpas [Mauropas] on the 22nd, where I had the arms examined, published

je trouvés dix cabanes de Crix deux chefs de guerre, qui m'entendoit avec bien des viandes ayant été averty que je venois, il me priere de leur accorder un séjour pour avoir le plaisir de nous voir et nous donner a mangér, je leurs acordéstant bien aise de leur parler, je fis venir les deux chefs a ma tante, je sauois qu'il aloit tous les ans aux Anglois, que l'on m'auoit raporté qu'il y en auoit un qui auoit receu vn collier des Anglois avec un présent pour jouer un mauvais tour aux françois, je dis a celui que l'on m'auoit accusée tout ce qui m'auoit esté dit de luy, j'ay eu l'honneur de vous en escrire l'année derniere de michilimakina, des bruits qui couroit a ce sujet, il me respondit mon père, je say que j'ay beaucoup denuieux qui parle contre moy, je n'ai point esté aux Anglois il y a plus de six ans, j'ay envoyés à la vérité ces dernières année que les françois nous a abandonnés il nous faloit avoir nos besoins, demande u ceux qui ont esté pour moy que voila icy sil ont entendue parler de quelque chose d'aprochant, je te peus assurer que l'Anglois est tranquile et ne nous parle point du françois, Ce sont des menteurs qui ont fait courir ces bruits là, tu en conoitera la vérité par la suite tant que le françois tiendra icy nos terres, nous te promettons de ne point alér ailleurs. Je leurs fis un petit présent pour les encouragér à tenir leurs paroles, je leurs fis le recit de tout ce que jauois dit a tous les autres tant de uos ordres que des nouvelles, nôtre vieux leurs fit ensuite vn grand recit de son voyage ce qui leur fit bien plaisir, le Chef que jauois acusée me dit mon père nous te remercions de ce que tu as bien parlé la bas a notre pere pour nous, nous conoissons aujourd'huy qu'il a pitié de nous en nous envoyant des françois sur nos terres pour nous apporter nos besoins, nous nous tiendrons tranquiles comme il le souhaite, les Sioux en fasse de même, nous auons toujours le cœur malade de ton fils, qui est venu le premier batir un fort sur nos terres, nous laymions beaucoup, j'ay deja esté vne fois en guerre pour le venger, je nay desfait que dix cabanes qui n'est pas suffisant pour nous contenter mais aujourduy nostre pere nous ordonne [de] nous tenir tranquile, nous le ferons, il me demanda ensuite ou je prétendois alér, que la rivière des assiliboilles estoit fort basse, nous courions grand risque de mettre nos canots or de service [que] nous alions ché des gens qui ne sauoit point tuer le castor, ne [se] couuroit que de peaux de beuf ce qui ne nous faloit point. Cestoit gens sans esprit qui n'auoit jamais ueü de françois, et ne le pouroit con. je luy respondis que je voulois alér dans l'otonne chez cette nations de blanc. tant l'on mauoit tant parlée que je monterois la rivière plus que je pourrois pour me mettre a portée de faire mon voyage selon uos ordres et que je voulois augmenter le nombre de uos enfants, apprendre a chasser aux assiliboilles et leurs donner de l'esprit, que l'année prochaine j'yrois d'un autre bord, tu risque beaucoup mon pere que les canots ne sorte a laige, il y a beaucoup d'assiliboilles cest vray il ne save point la chasse du castor, je souhaite que tu leurs donne de l'esprit, je partis le 26. monuieux me demanda arestér quelque jours avec les Crix qui Luy demandoit avec grande instance qu'il me rejoindroit en peu.—Comme il auoit sa voiture j'y consenty volontier et luy recommandés de bien encouragée ces gens la a bien chasser, porter des uiures aux fort françois et a tenir la parole qu'il mauoit donnée, de ne point alér aux Anglois, il me dit qu'il leurs parleroit de son mieux, qu'il esperoit que je serois content, je trouvé les eaux fort basses l'estée s'est passer sans pluye, la rivière uient de l'ouest, serpente, beaucoup large et grand courant beacoup de batures elle est bordée d'un beau bois sur cés bords et prairies a perte de veue dans les profondeurs, ou il y a beaucoup de beuf et serf, je pris le partis d'allér par terre, a suiure les prairie avec le monde inutile dans les canots, Le chemin est bien plus cour par les prairies, l'on Coupe plusieurs pointes de la riuère à la fois, l'on peut tenir un chemin droit, le gibier est le long de la rivière en grande abondance, je ne marché pas longtemps sans rencontrer des assiliboilles qui auoit été auerty que je montois dans leurs rivière venoit au deuant de moy, je poursuiuy toujours mon chemin remettant a leurs parler sur leurs terres, la Compagnie augmentoit tous les jours, je marchois six jours en employant bien le temps; Le 2 d'octobre au soir les sauvages m'auertire que je ne pouois monter plus loin la rivière trop basse que mes canots ne pouoit passer le bois que pour la portée de tout le monde estant au portage qui va au Lac des prairies car c'est le chemin des assiliboilles pour allér aux Anglois, tu arestera tout le monde estant icy, tu veux alér ché les mantannes te voila à la portée du chemin, je consulté

your orders concerning the said post, gave a copy of it to Mr. Larivière, clerk to these gentlemen, and selected five of his men to come with me. As I had agreed, I left nine men with Mr. de Larivière. I went to the fork of the Assiniboines (Assiniboine) on the 24th, where I found ten Cree huts and two war chiefs, who expected me, with a quantity of meat, having been notified that I was coming. They begged me to agree to remain, to have the pleasure of seeing us and of giving us something to eat. I agreed, being happy to speak to them. I sent for the two chiefs to my tent. I knew that they went every year to the English; it had been reported to me that there was one who had received a belt from the English to play a bad trick on the French. I told the one who had been accused everything that had been said of him. I had the honour of writing to you last year from Michilimakinak; of the rumours current on the subject. He answered: My father, I know there are many envious men who speak against me; I have not been to the English for more than six years. I sent, indeed, during the last years that the French abandoned us, and it was necessary to have our wants supplied. Ask those who have been on my account, who are here, if they have heard of any such accusation. I can assure thee the Englishman is quiet and does not speak of the French. They are liars who have set these rumours afloat. Thou wilt know the truth in time. So long as the French shall hold our lands here, we promise thee not to go elsewhere. I made them a small present to encourage them to keep their word; I told them everything I had said to the others, as well your orders as the news. Our old man then gave a great account of his journey, which afforded them much pleasure. The chief whom I had accused said to me: My father, we thank thee that thou hast spoken well below to our father for us; we now know that he has had pity on us by sending to us Frenchmen on our lands to supply our wants; we will keep quiet as he desires; the Sioux should do the same; our hearts are still sick for thy son who came the first to build a fort on our lands; we loved him much; I have once already been at war to avenge him; I have destroyed only ten huts, which is not enough to satisfy us; but now our father has ordered us to keep quiet; we shall do so. He then asked me where I intended to go; that the River Assiniboine was very low; that we ran the risk of making our canoes useless; that we were going among people who did not know how to kill the beaver, and covered themselves only with ox skin, which we did not need. They were a people without intelligence, who had never seen the French and could not know them. I answered that I wished to go in the autumn among that nation of whites who had been so much spoken of; that I would ascend the river as far as I could to put myself in a position to make my journey according to our orders; that I wished to increase the number of our children to learn to hunt on the Assiniboine and to give them intellect, and that next year I would go elsewhere. Thou dost run a great risk, my father, that the canoes will leave empty. There are many Assiniboines, it is true, but they do not know how to hunt beavers; I wish that thou shouldst give them intelligence. I left on the 26th. My old man asked me to remain a few days with the Crees, who urgently asked him to remain with them and that he would rejoin me shortly. As he had his vehicle I consented willingly, and recommended him to encourage these people to hunt well, to carry provisions to the French forts and to keep their word not to go to the English. He told me that he would speak to them as well as he could, and that he hoped I would be satisfied. I found the water very low, there having been no rain last summer. The river flows from the west, winding about greatly, wide, with a strong current and many sand bars; it is lined with fine woods on the banks and the prairies extend beyond sight, through whose extent are many cattle and deer. I chose to go by land, following the prairie; with the useless people in the canoes. The road is much shorter by the prairies; several points of the river are cut at once, and a straight road can be kept; game is along the river in great abundance. I had not marched long without meeting several Assiniboines who, having been warned that I was ascending their river, came to meet me. I still kept on my road, deferring to speak to them on their own lands. The company was increasing daily. I marched six days, making good use of the time. On the evening of the 2nd of

sur ce que nous devons faire, nous content environ a soixante Lieues de la fourche par eau et par terre trente cinq a quarante, a prendre les prairies, tous se trouvere noyant que nous ne pouuions passer outre et que nous courions grand risque de mettre nos Canots hors d'état de pouvoir sortir estant dans vn endroit sans ressource dans l'endroit pour les accomoder, n'ayant ny gomme ny rasiennes, qu'il estoit plus a propos de rester dans un endroit ou il y auoit beau a bastir, et qui estoit le chemin qui certainement ne vont point au fort de morpas je me desterminée le 3 au matin à choisir un endroit avantageux pour y batir un fort, que je fis commencer sur le chump, jesperois toujours que Mr de lamarque me viendrait joindre, si j'eusse monté plus haut il n'auroit peu me venir trouver, je parlés aux assiliboilles pendant que lon batissait a force, je les assemblé tout près de ma tante, leurs fis un present de uostre part, en poudre, balles, tabac, aches, couteaux tranches, aleines, le tout bien estimé parmi eux qui sont en grande nécessité de tout, Il me receure en grande cérémonie bien de pleurs pour témoignage de leurs joye pour leurs peine, je les receus au nombre de uos enfants, leurs fesant ensuite un ample instruction de vos ordres repetant a plusieurs fois enfin quil le pusse concevoir, cela parût leur faire un grand plaisir. il me firent de grand remerciement, en promettant des merveilles, je leurs recommandés de faire sauoir aux assiliboilles de la Rivière rouge quil y auoit des françois chés eux, que les françois ne les abandonneroit point tant qu'il auroit de lesprit il deuoit conoitre la bonté que uous auies pour eux et leur enuoyant leurs besoins de si loing, que leurs parent, le vieux que j'auois merés avec moy leurs pouuoit dire ce qui en estoit arinée a nous du jour, il nespargnoit rien a la verité pour les bien instruire et leurs aprendre ce qui en est d'auoir a faire aux françois, tout finit par des grands pleurs et remerciements, quelques jours apres je m'assuré d'un guide que je payé avec dautres pour m'accompagner a ma descouuerte et me porter de lequipage, le neuf au soir Mr de Lamarque avec le Sr Nolant son frere, huit hommes en deux canots ariuerent à nous, ce qui me fit beaucoup de plaisir, j'en temoigné ma reconnoissance à M. de lamarque de la peine qu'il auoit bien voulu prendre de nous amener du renfort, je m'informée de luy s'il auoit laissé bien du monde aux fort St. Charles lac des bois, et ce qu'il auoit laissé au [fort] morpas, il me repondit qu'il auoit laissé huit hommes aux premiers avec deux tresteurs, ayant amené tout ce qu'il y auoit [de] canots nesperant pas pour cela les pouuoir chercher [charger?] n'ayant pû aporter grand marchandises qu'il m'auoit promis de me venir joindre il nauoit pas voulu me manquer de parole, que j'auois besoin de monde pour ma descouuerte qu'il m'en amenoit et cela sans luy faire de tord n'ayant pas besoin de son monde pendant le cour de luyér. Je le remercié en luy disant que sil ne gagnait [joignait] dans notre Des Cou [verte] il auoit toujours pour épargné luy et tout son monde des frays jusquaux retour, Il me dit qu'il vouloit entrer dans la depence je luy repondis, que cela ne seroit pas, Il me sufisait qu'il me fournit du monde et luyesme, sans qu'il fuse de besoin d'entrér dans la Despence, que j'auois déjà mis a part, je luy doné une place a sa demande dans mon fort pour y batir une maison a loger tout [son] monde au retour de notre voyage le 15e du mois le fort et les maisons estant acheuées, je songés a tout faire aprester pour mon despard. Mr Delamarque me dit auoir amené M. de Louivière a la fourche avec deux canots pour y batir un fort à la comodité des gens de la rivière rouge, je trouvé cela bon si les sauvages sont averty. Le 16, je fis battre la générale, pour passer tout le monde en reueü et détachée ce qu'il me faloit de monde pour ma descouverte, apres la reueü des armes je fis publier nos ordres de ce qui regarde le poste destaché vingt hommes, dix a Mr. delamarque et dix des miens je les auertis de se tenir prest pour la 18, leurs fis donner uno liure de poudre, vingt balles à chaque, soullier, ache, chaudiere pour leurs utilité dans le voyage, donnai a chaque homme françois et sauvage vn sac de poudre de quatre liures soixanto balles, deux brasses de tabac, quelque menuité de marchandises, plus pour leurs besoins que pour autres choses, comme aleines, pierres à fusil, tirbourres, battefeux, je fis metre dans vn sac de cuire ce que je voulois porté pour le present qu'une femme de notre guide me portoit et tout ce qui m'estoit utile pour mon particulier mon domestique

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October the Indians notified me that I could not ascend the river further, the water being too low; that my canoes could only pass the woods, provided all the people were at the portage which goes to the Lake of the Prairies, for this is the road of the Assiniboines in going to the English. Being here thou wilt stop everyone; thou wouldest go to the Maudans; thou art close to the road. I consulted what we should do, believing that we were about sixty leagues from the fork by water and about thirty-five to forty by land, by taking the prairies. All present, seeing that we could not pass further and that we ran a great risk of damaging our canoes so that we could not leave, being in a place without resources for repairing them, having neither gum nor resin, felt that it was more suitable to remain in a place where there was plenty and which was on the road to go to the English, that we had reason to hope well of the people and all persons who certainly do not go to Fort Maurepas. I resolved on the morning of the 3rd to select an advantageous place to build a fort, which I made them begin immediately. I still hoped that M. de la Marque would come to join me. If I had gone higher up he would not have been able to find me. I spoke to the Assiniboines whilst they were building an oven. I assembled them near my tent, made them a present in your name, of powder, ball, tobacco, axes, knives, paring knives, awls, the whole much valued among those who are in great need of every thing. They received me with great ceremony; many with tears in testimony of their joy in exchange for their griefs. I received them among the number of your children, giving them afterwards full instructions respecting your orders, repeating them several times in order that they might comprehend. That appeared to give them great pleasure. They thanked me greatly promised to do wonders. I recommended them to inform the Assiniboines of the Red River that there were Frenchmen among them; that the French would not abandon them; so long as they had intelligence they ought to know the kindness you had for them by sending them what they needed from such a distance; that their relative, the old man, whom I had brought with me, could tell them what had taken place with us daily. He, in truth, spared nothing to inform them and to teach them what it is to have to do with the French; all ended in great weeping and thanks. Some days after, I secured a guide whom, with others, I paid to accompany me on my search and to carry the baggage. On the evening of the 9th Mr. de la Marque with the Sieur Nolant, his brother, and eight men in two canoes arrived, which gave me much pleasure. I testified my gratitude to Mr. de la Marque for the trouble he had taken to bring us reinforcements; I questioned him if he had left many people at Fort St. Charles, Lake of the Woods, and whom he had left at [Fort] Maurepas. He answered me that he had left eight men at the first with two traders, having brought all the canoes he had, not because he hoped to be able to load them, not having been able to bring the heavy goods, but that he had promised he would join me, and did not wish to break his word, that I required people for my expedition, that he had brought them, without injury to himself, not requiring his people during the winter. I thanked him telling him that if he joined in our expedition he would be saved, himself and all his people, the expense until they returned. He told me he wished to share the expense. I answered that that could not be, it was enough for me that he supplied the men and himself without the necessity of sharing the expense which I had already provided for. I gave him room, at his request, in my fort to build a house to lodge all his people. On the return from our journey on the 15th of the month, the fort and houses being completed, I thought of making every thing ready for our departure. Mr. de la Marque told me he had brought Mr. de Louvière to the Fork with two canoes to build a fort there for the accommodation of the people of the Red River. I approved of it, if the Indians were notified. On the 16th I had the drum beat to arms, to pass every one in review and to select such as were necessary for my expedition. After the inspection of the arms, I published your orders regarding the post; I selected twenty men, ten of Mr. la Marque's and ten of mine. I warned them to keep themselves in readiness for the 18th, gave them a pound of powder and twenty balls each, shoes, an axe, a kettle to be used on the journey; gave to each man, French and Indian, a bag of powder, sixty balls, two

et mon esclave le portoit, cela distribué, je fis recevoir Sanschagrin homme d'esprit sage et prudent qui me fait la fonction de sergent, commandant à mon absence menant mes deux enfans avec moy, luy laissant deux soldats et dix engagés pour la garde du fort, luy donné ensuite l'ordre et instruction par écrit de tout ce qu'il avoit à faire pendant mon absence, le 18 tout étant en bon ordre dans le fort, je fis partir tout notre monde avec ordre d'aller camper proche et partis ensuite avec Mr. de Lamarque sur le midy, en encourageant les sauvages que je lessois aux fort de chasser aux beuf le castor n'estant pas encore bon, pour fournir des viures aux françois que je lessois nôtre petite bande consistoit à 52 personnes vingt engagés tous bons hommes Mr de la marque son frere, mes deux enfans, mon domestique un esclave, le reste sauvages. Le troisieme jour de notre depart, un vilage de quarante cabannes assilliboilles. nous joignirent a dessein de me parler. Le chef me demanda de vouloir bien luy acorder la journée pour avoir le plaisir de nous voir et nous donner a manger, je lui acordée à la sollicitation de notre guide, je fis un petit present au chef de poudre et luy fit tout le recit que j'avois fait a tous les autres. Il me temoigna beaucoup de reconnaissance, en promettant bien des merveilles, qu'il aloit porter des viures aux françois et chasseroit de leur mieux, enfin d'avoir leurs besoins. Le 21 nous continuames nostre route jusqua la premiere montagne éloignée de nostre fort de vingt six lieues toujours au sud quard de sud ouest de la premiere montagne a la seconde à ouést quard nor ouést 24 lieues, de la pointe de la seconde montagne, a aler chez les mantannes en droiture il faut tenir le sud ouést quard ouést, il sen faloit de beaucoup que nous ne fime de chemin droit pour deux lieues en droiture, nous en fesions de trois et quatre de nostre fort, il peut y avoir cent vingt lieues, a ouést sud ouést, que nostre guide nous a bien augmenté de plus de cinquante a soixante lieues, et nombre de sejour auquel il nous faloit conseoir malgré nous, nous fesant passer le plus beau temps de l'automne en sejour, nous auons mis quarante six jours a nous rendre, que nous aurions bien fait en saise ou vingt jours au plus, Il nous faloit prendre patience par force, tout ce que je pouvois dire a nôtre guide pour le faire diligenter ne servoit de rien, Il nous fit faire pour comble de bonheur vingt deux lieues de chemin qui nous éloignoit de nôtre route, pour joindre un vilage de cent deux cabanes qu'il avoit esté découvrir et nous avoit amenés huit hommes, que les Chefs du vilage n'envoyoit pour me prier de les aller joindre qu'il estoit tous dans le sentiment de m'accompagner chés les mantannes, me faisant dire que les Sioux frequentoit souvent par la et que j'avois besoin descorte, il fallut bien se resoudre a y aler nous y ariames le 18e de novembre, sur l'après midi, il estoit venu nombre de couriers au devant de nous, nous [y] fumes receu avec grande joye l'on nous conduisit, M. de Lamarque, son frere, et mes enfans dans une cabane d'un jeune Chef ou tout estoit prêt pour nous recevoir, l'on nous fit grand chaire et a tout nostre monde qui ne manquoit point de bon apety. Le 19. je fis rassembler les chefs et principaux du vilage dans la cabane ou j'estois, je leur donée un present de nostre part en poudre, ballos, couteaux et tabac, en leurs disant que je les recevois au nombre de vos enfans, que s'il avoit de l'esprit que vous leurs prometiez de ne les point abandonner que les françois estoit aujourdhuy establie sur leurs terres et leurs fourniroit tous leurs besoins qui leurs faloit chasser au Castor et bien garder leurs terres que vous ne vouliez point de guerre pour le présent voulant aplanir toutes les terres que tous nos enfans puisse vivre tranquille, dont jaugmentois le nombre tous les jours je leurs fis le récit que j'avois fait a tous les autres, ce fut grand remerciement par bien de pleurs et ceremonie, en passant leurs mains sur ma teste me prenant à vôte lieue et place [pour] leur père et nos françois pour frere, en passant les mains sur la teste a tous en pleurant, cette ceremonie faite larenqueur [harangueur] me dit nous te remercions mon pere d'avoir bien voulu te donnée la peine de venir à nous, nous allons tous t'accompagner aux mantannes et te ramener a ton fort, nous avons envoyés quatre hommes les auertir, qui vien[nent] darivér, raporte que les mantannes sont en grande réjouissance de [ta] venue chez eux et doit venir au devant de toy. Nous auons ren[voyé] quatre autres jeunes gens, pour les amener aux lieux que nous leur auons marqué, nous alons nous y rendre tout doucement en chassant, enfin d'avoir des graisses en arrivant la pour manger avec leurs grains qu'il mange toujours beaux, nayant pour le plus souvent ny viande, ny graisse, Je les

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fathoms of tobacco; some small wares, more for present necessities than for any thing else, as awls, gun-flints, gun screws and steels. I had put into a leather bag what I wanted for present use, that a wife of our guide carried for me, and all that was of use for myself, my servant and my slave carried. That settled, I had Sanschagrin received as commander in my absence, as a man of wise and prudent mind, who fills the office of sergeant. Taking my two children with me, I left him two soldiers and ten hired men as a guard for the fort, and then gave him orders and instructions in writing of all he was to do during my absence. On the 18th, all being in good order in the fort, I made all our people set out, with orders to encamp not far off, and afterwards to leave with Mr. de la Marque about noon, encouraging the Indians whom I left at the fort to hunt cattle, the beaver not being yet good, to furnish provisions to the French whom I left. Our small band consisted of 52 persons, twenty hired men, all good men, Mr. de la Marque, his brother, my two children, my servant and a slave, the rest Indians. The third day after leaving, a village of forty Assiniboine huts joined us, with the intention of speaking to me. The chief asked me to grant him the favour of remaining for the day, to have the pleasure of seeing us and of showing their hospitality. I agreed, on the solicitation of our guide. I made him a small present of powder, and made the same statement to him as I had done to all the others. He testified much gratitude, promising wonders; that he would carry provisions to the French, and would hunt to the utmost, so as to supply their wants. On the 21st we continued our route, as far as the first mountain, twenty-six leagues distant from our fort, still to the south by south-west; from the first mountain to the second west and by north-west, 24 leagues. From the point of the second mountain to go direct to the Mandans we must keep to the south-west. But we were obliged to do much more, as on a road which is two leagues in a straight line, we made three or four from our fort. It may have been a hundred and twenty leagues to the west south-west that our guide lengthened the road by from fifty to sixty leagues and a number of stops to which we were obliged to agree, making us spend the finest weather in autumn staying still, so that we took forty-six days to go a distance we should have done easily in sixteen or twenty days at the most. We had, perforce, to have patience; all that I could say to our guide to make him hasten was to no purpose. He made us take for the height of happiness twenty-two leagues of a road which was taking us off our route, to get to a village of a hundred and two huts which he had gone to look for, and had brought us eight men, whom the chiefs of the village had sent to beg me to join them, that they were all inclined to accompany me to the Mandans, telling me that the Sioux often visited in that direction and that I had need of an escort. We had to make up our minds to go there. We arrived there on the 18th November, in the afternoon. A number of messengers had gone before us and we were received with great joy. They led us, Mr. de la Marque, his brother and my children, into the hut of a young chief, where every one was ready to receive us. They made a great feast for us and for all our people, who did not want for a good appetite. On the 19th I assembled the chiefs and head men of the village in the hut where I was, I gave them a present in your name of powder, balls, knives and tobacco telling them that I received them into the number of your children; that if they had sense you promised not to abandon them; that the French were now established on their lands and would provide for all their wants; that they must hunt the beaver and keep to their lands; that you did not wish for war at present, desiring to make all the lands smooth, so that all our children might live in peace, of whom I would increase the number every day. I made the same recital to them that I had made to all the others. There was great thankfulness, with many tears and ceremonies, by passing their hands over my head, taking me in your room and place as their father, and our Frenchmen as brothers by again passing the hands over our heads, all weeping. This ceremony ended, the orator said: We thank thee, my father, for so willingly taking the trouble to come to us; we are all going in thy company to the Mandans to bring thee to thy fort; we have sent four men to warn them who are about to arrive who report that the Mandans are greatly rejoicing at thy coming



remercie de leur bonne volonté et les encourage à nous rendre promptement qu'il voyoit aussi bien que moy la saison fort avancée, sachant que les mantannes nestoit pas prouisionnés de gruisse j'en fis acheter dans le village en donnée a tout nôtre monde a porter ce qu'il en voulure, et en fit porter pour nous par les sauvages, que je paye pour cela, j'auerty nos françois que j'estois dans le descin de passer une partie de lyvor chés les mantannes qu'il nesitasse point de se bien chargé de graisse, sinon qu'il mangeroit leurs ble et feües a leaux, le 20. tout le village se mit en marche pour se rendre, à 17 lieües ou il auoit marqué le rendés nous aux mantannes, tout les jours lon ne nous entretenoit, de blanc que nous alions voir françois comme nous qui se disoit descendant de nous, tout ce que lon nous disoit nous donnoit bonne esperance de faire une descouuerte qui merita attention, M. de lamarque et moy, le long du chemin nous nous fesions des projets sur tout ce que nous atendions dire, croyant ueritable, dont nous avons bien eu a disconter, je fis remarquer à M<sup>r</sup> de lamarque le bon ordre avec lequel les assiliboiles marche pour prenenir toutes surprises marchant toujours dans des prairies, de caute et valons depuis la première montagne, ce qui ne lesse pas d'estre de fatigue a marcher, monter et descendre fort souvent dans la journée, Il y a des plaines magnifiques de trois et quatre Lieües, La marche des villages assiliboiles, surtout quand il sont nombreux est en trois colonnes des descouureurs de vend sur les elles à une bonne arriere garde, les vieillards et estropiés marche dans celle du milieu qui est le centre. Je fesois tenir tout les françois ensemble autant que faire se pouuoit. Si les descouureurs apercoive sur la route des bandes de beufs comme il arrive souvent, le crix se fait qui est bientost renduë à l'arriere garde, tout ce qu'il y a d'hommes dans les colonnes des plus alerte, joigne la vendgarde, pour cerner les bestes, dont ils en tue nombre, chacun prend de la viande ce qu'il en veut. Puisque cela areste la marche, lavant garde marque le campement il n'y a point a passer outre, les femmos et les chiens porte tout Lequipages, les hommes ne sont chargés que de leurs armes, ils font porter a leurs chiens souvent jusques aux bois pour faire du feux estant obligée souvent de camper en plaine prairie, les iles de bois sont de loing a loing, le 28. nous arinames au matin a Lendroit marqué du rendé vous pour les mantannes, qui arriuere sur le soir, vn chef avec trente hommes et les quatre assiliboilles, le Chef apres auoir consideré quelques temps de dessus une hauteur la grandeur de nostre uillage, qui ne lessoit pas que de paroistre, je fis conduire dans la cabane ou j'estois ou lon auoit preparé une place pour le receuoir dans un Costé de la Cabanne, il se vint placer près de moy quelqu'un de ses gens ensuite de luy, me presenta un present de blé d'inde en espie et de leur tabac en endouille qui nest pas bon ne sachant pas l'acomoder comme nous, il est bien comme le nostre, avec cette différence qui ne le plante point et le coupe verd, mettant tout a profit, eoton et les feuilles ensemble, je luy en donnè du mien, qu'il trouua bien bon, javouë que je fus surpris, mattendant a voir des gens differents des autres sauvages, surtout le recit que l'on nous en auoit fait il ny a point de difference d'avec les assiliboiles nue couverd seulement d'une robe de beuf, porté négligemment sans brayet, je connus des lors que nous auions bien a desconter de tout ce qui nous en auoit esté dit le chef me parla en assiliboile me témoignant la joye que je donnois a toutes leurs nations, de mon arriuee ches eux qu'il me prioit de les accepter du nombre de uos enfants, quil vouloit par la suite ne faire qu'un avec nous, que je pouuois disposer de tout ce quil auoit qu'il me prioit de rester a son fort qui estoit le plus près plus petit que tous les autres, mais bien muny de viures, quil estoit six fort a la même nations, quil estoit le seul un peu eloigné de la riuère me dit auoir receu deux colliers de moy, que lon me feroit voir en ariuant qu'on auoit toujours esperés me voir, je le remerciés de toutes ses honnestetés et offres, luy disant que je venois de bien loing pour faire amitié avec eux, que je leurs parlerois si tost que je serois arriué à leurs fort, il nous jona sur le champ une marote, ayant consideré notre uillage en arivant comme j'ay marqué, jugent quil y auoit bien du monde si tout cela ariuoit a son fort, quil faloit faire une grande consommation de grains, leurs maniere estant de nourir gratuitement tous ceux qui vont chés eux, ne vende le grain que pour emporté il fit de grand remerciements aux assiliboilles de leurs avoir amenés le francois chez eux, quil ne pouvoit

amongst them and are to come to meet thee. We have sent other four young men to bring them to the place we have selected for them; we will go quietly to the hunting to have fat on arriving there, to eat with the grain of which they always eat much, having seldom either meat or fat. I thanked them for their good will, and encouraged them to send us on quickly; that they could see as well as I, the very advanced season. Knowing that the Mandans had no supplies of fat, I purchased it in the village to give to all our people whatever they would carry, and made the Indians carry for us, for which I paid them; I warned our Frenchmen that I intended to spend part of the winter among the Mandans; that if they did not take a good load of fat, they must eat their wheat and beans with water. On the 20th, the whole village set out on the march to go the seventeen leagues where the meeting place for the Mandans had been chosen; every day they entertained us with the tale that the whites we were going to see were Frenchmen like ourselves, who said they were our descendants. All they told us gave us good hope of making a discovery which would deserve attention. Mr. de la Marque and I made plans along the road from what they were telling us, believing that to be true, from which we had to deduct much. I observed to Mr. de la Marque the good order in which the Assiniboines march to prevent surprise, marching always on the prairies, the hillsides and valleys from the first mountain, which did not make them fatigued by mounting and descending often in their march during the day. There are magnificent plains of three or four leagues. The march of the Assiniboines, especially when they are numerous, is in three columns, having skirmishers in front, with a good rear guard, the old and lame march in the middle, forming the central column. I kept all the French together as much as possible. If the skirmishers discovered herds of cattle on the road, as often happens, they raise a cry which is soon returned by the rear guard, and all the most active men in the columns join the vanguard to hem in the cattle, of which they secure a number, and each takes what flesh he wants. Since that stops the march, the vanguard marks out the encampment which is not to be passed; the women and dogs carry all the baggage, the men are burdened only with their arms; they make the dogs even carry wood to make the fires, being often obliged to encamp in the open prairie, from which the clumps of wood may be at a great distance. On the morning of the 28th, we arrived at the place selected for the meeting with the Mandans, who arrived towards evening—a chief, with thirty men and the four Assiniboines. The chief, after having from the top of a height considered for some time the extent of our village, which appeared of a good size, I had him brought to the hut where I was, where a place had been prepared to receive him on one side of it. He came and placed himself near me; one of his people then, on his part, presented me with a gift of Indian corn in the ear, and of their tobacco in rolls, which is not good, as they do not know how to cure it like us. It is very like ours, with this difference, that it is not cultivated and is cut green, everything being turned to account, the stalks and the leaves together. I gave him some of mine, which he thought very good. I acknowledged that I was surprised, expecting to see different people from the other Indians, especially after the account given me. There is no difference from the Assiniboines; they are naked, covered only with a buffalo robe, worn carelessly without breech clout. I knew from that time that we had to make an allowance for all we had been told. The chief spoke to me in Assiniboine, testifying the joy which I had given to all their nation by my arrival among them; that he begged me to accept them among the number of your children; that he wished afterwards to have to do only with us; that I might dispose of all he had; that he begged me to remain at his fort, that it was the nearest and smaller than the others, but well supplied with provisions; that there were six forts belonging to the same nation; that it was the only one not far from the river. He told me he had received two belts from me; that they had been shown to me on my arrival as they had always hoped to see me. I thanked him for all his civilities and offers, telling him that I had come from a long distance to form a friendship with them, and that I would speak to them so soon as I should have arrived at their

arriver plus a propos, que les sioux ne devoit pas tarder a arriuer chés eux ayant été avertis, me priant comme les assiliboilles vouloir bien leurs donner secours esperant beaucoup de nostre valeur et courage, je donné, dans le panneau comme les assiliboilles, avec cette difference, que l'assiliboille demeura interdit, et moy je m'en rejoins croyant trouver occasion de me venger de cette maudite nation, je luy promis que s'il venoit pendant que nous serions chés eux, tout secours de moy et tous nos françois, il me remercia, on le vint chercher pour le mener en festin, et le quesquioné au sujet des Sioux l'assiliboille nombreux, hommes fort et robustes, ne sont pas braves il craignent beaucoup les Sioux qu'il pense plus brave, les mantannes connoissent leurs faible et en profite dans Locasion, Le Conseil se teint pour Deliberer sur ce qu'il devoit faire, la plus forte voix estoit qu'il ne fa[loit] passer outre de m'avertir du risque que jalois courir si je voulois poursuivre un vieillard se leua fortement, ne pensés pas que nôtre pere est lache, je le connois mieux que vous autres, jay toujours esté avec Luy depuis qu'il est parti de son fort, ne croyés pas que les Sioux soit capable de les pouvanter, ny tout son monde que pencera-t-il de nous, il a alongé son chemin pour nous venir joindre en acordant a notre demande pour l'accompagner chés les mantannes et lo reconduire a son fort, il seroit rendue aujourd'huy sil ne nous auoit point écouté et vous penceriez labandonné en le lessant alér seul ce qui ne sera pas si vous apreendés les Sioux laissons nôtre vilage icy, jusque aux retour, tout ce qu'il y a d'hommes capables de marcher suivé nostre pere, tout acordere au sentiment du vieillard il fut décidé qu'il ne resteroit que peu de monde pour garder les femmes, tout le reste macompaneroit, lon mauertis du résultat du Conseil, la harangue se fit partout le vilage pour en avertir un chacun a se tenir prest a marcher le surlendemain 30. du mois donnant un sejour aux mantannes qui en sure bien profiter, pour trafiquer les grains, tabac, poilles et plumes peintes qu'il save que les assiliboilles estime beaucoup qui leurs auoit aportés et tiré en eschange fusille, ache, chodiére, poudre, balles, couteaux, aleines, ils sont bien plus rusés que les assiliboilles dans leurs commerce et en tous les autres estant toujours leurs dupe nous partimes le 30 au matin environ six cents hommes, plusieurs femmes sans enfans des meilleures jambes, la troisième journée au soir de nostre marche, environ sept lieus du premier fort des Mantannes, l'on mauertit qu'un assiliboille auoit pris le sac de mon esclave dans le chemin sous pretexte de soulagement, estoit retourné au vilage, ma boîte ou estoit mes papiers et bien de choses à mon utilité dedans le sac, je loüés sur le champ deux jeunes gens pour courir après que je payés leurs faisant promettre de me rapporter le sac chez les Mantannes, ou je les atenderois, ils partire dans la nuit, rejoignirent le fripon qui estoit déjà décampée du vilage, lui fire rendre tout et revinre à leurs vilage garder le tout, esperant me rendre à mon retour, n'ozant point me venir trouver craignant les Sioux, je me vis privée de bien des choses qui mestoit journellement fort utiles—Laranqueur auerty qu'il falloit partir devant quatre heures du matin enfin dariver de bon heure au fort, je trouuée a une lieué et demy sur le midy près d'une petite riviere bien du monde qui estoit uenue au devant de nous, auoit allumée du feux a nous attendant et auoit apportés du petit blé cuit et farine grolée en pate avec de la sitrouille pour nous donner à manger a tous, deux chef, manoit preparé une place près du feu, me presentere dabord à ma[nger] et a fumer, Mr de lamarque arriva peu de temps après moy—je priaï de se mestre à costé et de manger en se reposant, nous restames bien deux heures à nous reposer—l'on m'averty qu'il estoit temps de nous rendre, je fis prendre le pavillon peint aux armes de france à un de mes enfans pour marcher à la teste, ordre aux françois de suivre par ordre, le Sr nolant soulagent mon fils portant le pavillon chaquon leurs tour, les mantannes ne voulurent pas me laisser marcher, sofrire a me porter, il me fallut bien consentir en estant priés par les assiliboilles me disent que je leurs ferois un grand desplaisir si je les refusois.

A quatre arpent du fort, sur une petite hauteur, une partie des anciens du fort accompagné dun grand nombre de jeunes gens matendoit pour me presenter le calumet et me faire voir les deux collier que je leur auoit envoyé il y a quatre ou cinq ans, l'on me donna un siege et a m<sup>r</sup> de lamarque, je receu leurs compliments qui ne consistoit que a la joye qu'il resentoit de nostre arrivée, jordonné a mon fils le cheva-

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fort. He immediately played us a trick ; having examined our village on his arrival, as I have stated, judging that there would be many people, and if they all came to his fort, there must be a great consumption of grain, their custom being to feed liberally all who came among them, selling only what was to be taken away, he gave many thanks to the Assiniboines for having brought the French among them; that it could not have happened more opportunely; that the Sioux would not be long of arriving among them, having been warned, begging me, like the Assiniboines, to assist them, hoping much from our valour and courage. I was entrapped like the Assiniboines, with this difference, that the Assiniboines stood confounded, whilst I rejoiced, believing that I had found an opportunity to be avenged on that accursed nation. I promised him every assistance from myself and our Frenchmen should they come whilst we were with them, for which he thanked me. He was sent for to come to the feast and questioned respecting the Sioux. The Assiniboines, numerous, strong and robust men, are not brave; they greatly fear the Sioux, whom they think to be braver. The Mandans know their weakness and profit by it, as opportunity arises. The council was held to discuss what should be done. The most decided opinion was that it was not necessary to go further than to warn me of the risk I was about to run if I wished to pursue our course. An old man rose firmly: Do not think that our father is a coward; I know him better than the others do; I have been with him ever since he left his fort; do not believe that the Sioux can frighten him or any of his people. What will he think of us? He has lengthened his road to join us, agreeing to our wish for his company among the Mandans and to bring him back to his fort. He would have gone to-day if he had not listened to us, and you would think of abandoning him by letting him go alone, which cannot be. If we fear the Sioux let us leave our village here till our return; let every man able to march follow our father. All agreed in the old man's opinion; it was decided that only a few should remain to protect the women; all the rest would accompany me. I was notified of the result of the council; word was sent throughout the village to warn every one to be ready to march the day after to-morrow, the 30th of the month, thus making a little longer delay among the Mandans, who knew how to profit by it by the sale of their grain, tobacco, peltry and painted plumes, which they know the Assiniboines greatly value, who had brought and now gave in exchange muskets, axes, kettles, powder, balls, knives and awls. They are much craftier in trade than the Assiniboines and others, who are constantly their dupes. We left on the morning of the 30th, about 600 men, several women without children, the best walkers. On the evening of the third day of our march, about seven leagues from the first fort of the Mandans, I was informed that an Assiniboine had taken the bag from my slave on the road, under pretext of relieving him, and had returned to the village. My box, in which were my papers, and many things of use to me, were in the bag. I immediately engaged two young men to run after him, whom I paid, making them promise to bring the bag to the Mandans, where I would wait for them. They set out during the night, overtook the rascal, who had already decamped from the village, made him return everything and came back to their village to keep the whole, hoping to restore it to me on my return, not daring to come after me, being afraid of the Sioux. I saw myself deprived of many things which were of daily use. The orator gave notice that we must leave before four in the morning in order to arrive early at the fort. I found at a league and a half, about noon, near a small river, a number of people who had come to meet us had lighted fires, expecting us, and had brought coarse grain cooked and flour made into a paste, with pumpkins, to give all enough to eat. Two chiefs had made a place ready for me near the fire and presented me first with something to eat and to smoke. Mr. de la Marque arrived shortly after me. I asked him to sit near me and to eat whilst resting. We remained fully two hours resting. We were warned that it was time to go. I made one of my children take the flag painted with the arms of France, and march at the front; and ordered the French to follow in ranks. The Sieur Nolant relieved my son in carrying the flag, each taking it in turn. The Mandans would not let me march, but offered to carry me, to which I had to consent, being requested by the Assiniboines, who told me I would displease them greatly if I refused.

lier de faire border la aix a tous nos francois, le paillon devant a quatre pas de distance, tous les assiliboilles qui auoit des fusils se mirent en Rang comme nos francois après les compliments faits, je fis saluer le fort de trois decharges, il estoit venue bien du monde audeuant de nous, Ce nestoit rien a comparaison de ce qu'il en paroissoit sur les rempart et le long des fossées—je marché en bon ordre aux fort ou jentré le 3 decembre a 4 heures apres-midy, escorté de tous les françois et assiliboilles, lon nous conduisit dans la cabane du premier chef, grande a la verité, mais pas assés pour tenir tout le monde qui y vouloit entré, la foule estoit si grande qu'il se portoit les uns sur les autres, assiliboilles et mantannes Il ny auoit que la place ou nous estions m<sup>r</sup> de la marque, son frere et mes enfans, qu'il y auoit de libre, je demandés que lon fit sortir le grand monde pour debarasser nos francois et leurs faire mettre leur equipage dans un endroit de sureté, leurs disant quil auoit tout le temps de nous voir, lon fit sortir tout le monde, je my pris trop tard, lon nous auoit volé le sac de marchandises ou estoit tous mes presents par la grande faute d'un de nos engagés a qui je lavois donné a soing auant que d'arriver aux fort, il estoit dechargé en entrant dans la cabanne sans prendre garde au sac qu'il auoit mis contre luy dans la grande foule—je me trouvé un peu desrangé, ma boëte perdue, mon sac de present, qui nous estoit fort necessaire pour lendroit, il y auoit pour plus de trois cents livres dedans les assiliboilles parure fort peinés et fire de grandes recherches sur l'heure bien inutilement. Leurs fort est remply de caves ou ils sont beaux a cacher le chef des mantannes me paroissent fort touché de ma perte, me dit pour ma consolation qu'il y avoit beaucoup de fripon parmy eux, il feroit son possible pour decouvrir quelque chose si jauois voulu me servir de l'offre des assiliboilles je l'aurois bien fait trouver en peu par la force, jaimés mieux perdre et passifier toutes choses uolant passer une partie de lyuer ches eux pour prendre connoissance de plus loing, le 4. je fis assembler le principaux mantanne et assiliboilles dans la cabanne ou j'estois, je leurs fis mon present en poudre et balles, en leur disant que je ne pouuois leurs donner autres choses qu'il savoit tout ce que lon mauoit fait apporter pour donner en present, je leur desclarés que j'estois dans le sentiment de rester quelque temps pour prendre connoissance du país selon nos ordres, ce que je ne pouuois faire dans un jour, les mantannes me temoignere la joye qu'il en auoit, en massurant que je ne deuois pas apreender de jeuner qu'ils auoit de vivres en reserve bien plus quil nous en faloit et que tout leur fort en étoit bien munie, j'en pouuois disposer étant maitre chez eux. L'ancien des assiliboilles arengueur du vilage, me dit mon pere, nous tauiens amenée icy, je ne doute pas que tu ny sois bien icy, nous nous flattions de te ramener a ton fort, tu es le maitre de faire ce que tu jugeras apropos, nous niendrons te chercher, si tost que tu le souhaitera, parlant ensuite aux mantannes, nous nous lessons notre pere, ayés en grand soing et de tous les françois, aprenés a les conoitre, cest un esprit, il save tout faire, nous laymons et le craignons faites comme nous, nous partons bien peiné du vol qui a esté fait à nostre pere en entrant chez nous, que peut il penser de nous autres, nous ne pouuons disconvenir que cest une chose indigne, le françois nous vien voir et vous le volé, nous estes fort heureux que notre pere soit bon cela naurait pas passé de même, je ne crains pas de nous le dire il nous auroit bien fait trouver le sac sil auoit voulu, il est encore temps s'il le vent, je fis finir ce discours uoyant le vieillard qui commençoit a sechauffer, un des chefs mantannes respondit, ny moy, n'y mes gens nauons point de part a ce dont tu nous acuses, je ne repond point des autres, jen suis assés peinés, jay fait toutes recherches par mes jeunes gens, je nay rien a me reprocher qui sait si ca nest point un assiliboille, il y auoit des uns et des autres dans la foule, tu ne peus respondre de rien, ne sois point inquiète de ce qui regarde nostre pere, et tout son monde il est icy maitre comme ches luy, nous le prions de nous maitre au nombre de ses enfans, ce que je fis sur l'heure en mettant les mains sur la teste de chaque chef qui est la ceremonie ordinaire, responde par de grande aclamations de joye et de remerciement, je dis ensuite aux assiliboilles jenvoye quatre françois a mon fort pour y donner de mes nouvelles, je vous recomande de les faire rendre le plus tot que vous pourrés, jay laissé de la poudre au vilage et tout ce qui est necessaire pour les faire conduire. Le Conseil finit par de grand remerciement de part et d'autre, comme

At four acres from the fort, on a small height, the old men of the fort, accompanied by a great number of the youth, were waiting to present me with the calumet and to show me the two belts I had sent them four or five years ago. They gave a seat to me and to Mr. de le Marque. I received their compliments, which related only to the joy they felt at our arrival. I ordered my son, the Chevalier, to make all our Frenchmen draw up in line, the flag four paces in front; all the Assiniboines who had muskets placed themselves in line like our Frenchmen. After compliments had been paid, I saluted the fort with three volleys. Many people came to meet us, but nothing in comparison with what appeared on the ramparts and along the trenches. I marched in good order to the fort, into which I entered on the 3rd of December at four in the afternoon, escorted by all the French and Assiniboines. We were led into the hut of the head chief. It was certainly large, but not enough to hold all who wished to enter. The crowd was so great that they crushed one another, Assiniboines and Mandans. There was only the place where we were, Mr. de le Marque, his brother and my children, five of them. I asked that the crowd should retire, to leave our Frenchmen clear, and to put their baggage in a place of safety, telling them they had all time to see us. Everyone was put out, but I had been too late. The bag of goods had been stolen, in which were all my presents, through the fault of one of the hired men in whose care I had placed it before reaching the fort. He had unloaded on entering the hut without looking out for the bag, which he had put beside him in the great crowd. I felt rather confounded; my box lost, my bag of presents, which was very necessary for the place, and there were up wards of 300 livres inside. The Assiniboines seemed greatly annoyed and at once made a strict but useless search. Their fort is full of caves, well suited for concealment. The chief of the Mandans appeared to be greatly moved at my loss, and said for my consolation that there were many rascals among them. He would do his utmost to discover something about it. Had I accepted the offer of the Assiniboines, I might have had it found in a little time by force, but I preferred to lose it and to make peace about everything, as I wanted to spend a part of the winter with them to get a knowledge of the more distant country. On the 14th I had the principal Mandans and Assiniboines assembled in the hut where I was. I gave them my present of powder and balls, telling them that I could give them nothing else; that they all knew that what I had brought to give in presents had been carried off. I declared to them that I was inclined to remain some time to gain a knowledge of the country according to our orders, which I could not do in a day. The Mandans testified their joy, assuring me that I need not be afraid of fasting, that they had provisions in reserve, far more than were necessary for us, and that their whole fort was well supplied, that I might dispose of it being master among them. The elder of the Assiniboines, the orator of the village, said to me: My father, we have brought thee here; I do not doubt that thou mayest be well here; we flatter ourselves with bringing thee back to thy fort; thou art the master to do what thou shalt consider suitable; we will come to seek thee, so soon as thou shalt wish it. Speaking then to the Mandans: We are leaving our father; take great care of him and of all the French; learn to know them; they know how to do everything; he is a spirit; we love and fear him; do like us. We leave much grieved at the theft which has been committed on our father by entering among us; what can he think of us; we cannot deny that it is an unworthy thing. The Frenchman came to see us and you robbed him; we are pleased that our father should be good or it would not have passed in that way. I do not fear to tell you so; we could have found the bag had he wished it; there is still time if he will. I made him finish, as I saw the old man was getting heated. One of the Mandan chiefs answered: Neither I, nor my people have any share in what you accuse us of; I do not answer for others; I am vexed enough; I have had every search made by my young men; I have nothing to reproach myself with. Who knows if it is not an Assiniboine? There were some of both in the crowd; thou canst answer for nothing. Be not uneasy as to what regards our father and all his people; he is here master as if he were at home. We beg him to number us among his children. This I did at once, by putting my hands on the head of each chief, which

les assiliboilles ne parloit point encore de partir ayant eependant fait leur nehat de tout ce qu'il auoit pu estre en etat d'acheter comme robe de beuf peinturé, peaux de serf et chevreuille bien passée et enjolivée de poille et plumes des plumes peinte et poille, jartiere, ouvrage, tour de teste, seintures, ce sont gens qui passent mieux le cuire de toute les nations et trauaille bien delicatement en poilles et plumes, les assiliboilles ne sont pas capables den faire autant, Ils sont fin commerçant despoillés les assiliboilles de tout ce qu'ils peuvent avoir comme fusille poudre balles chodiere ache couteaux aleine, noyant la grande consommation de uïres qui se faisoit tous les jours par les assiliboilles apreçdant quil ne restasse longtems il fire courir le bruit que les Sioux estoit proche, que plusieurs de leurs chasseurs les auoit aperçeu, les assiliboilles donnere dans le panneau et prire leurs partis bien vite pour descamper, ne voulant pas se trouver obligé de se battre, un chef mantanne me fit atendre par signe, que le bruit qui couroit au sujet des Sioux estoit pour faire partir les assiliboilles, le six au matin tous partire a grande haste croyant les Sioux proche et craignoit qui ne leur coupasse le chemin, le chef ches qui j'auois logé dans le village mameua cinq hommes pour rester avec moy en me disant mon Père, je te regrete, jespère toujours que tu nous viendra joindre un peu, je marcheré doucement, voila cinq de mes jeunes gens que je te donne pour rester icy avec toy et te conduiront quand tu voudra partir, je luy fis un petit present pour le remercier luy disant qu'il conoitroit qu'j'auois de lesprit dans peu, ayant dessin de le recompenser de son attention, Il partit avec de grandes protostations damitié, l'on ne nint auertir peu de temps après que notre interprete que j'auois bien payé pour massurer de luy estoit descampé malgré tous les offres que mon fils le chevalier luy peut faire allant après une femme assiliboille dont il etait amourachés, qui n'auoit pas voulu rester auéc luy, Cestoit un jeune homme Crix de nations, parlant bon assiliboilles dont il y a plusieurs mantannes qui en parle assez bien je me fesois fort, bien entendre, mon fils parloit en crix et les crix interpretoit en assiliboille, nous voila reduit pour comble de malheur, a ne nous pouuoir faire entendre que par signe et demonstrations, Si je mestois mefié de mon interprete qui tous les jours massuroit de rester toujours auéc moy, de ne jamais mabandonner, j'auois profité du temps que je l'auois auprès de moy pour faire les demandes que je voulois faire aux mantannes me flattant auoir un homme sur j'auois remis après le despard des assiliboilles, estant toute la journée fort embarrassée Tout ce que j'ay peu sçanoir et quelque demande que je fesos faire le soir après que tout le monde estoit retiré, comme s'il y auoit bien du monde le long de la riuière en descendant quel nations, s'il auoit conoissance de bien loing, lon me repondit qu'il auoit cinq forts des deux bords de la riuière de leurs nations bien plus grand que celuy ou nous estions que a une journée du dernier de leurs fort estoit les panaux, qui auoit plusieurs fort, les pananis ensuite, que ces deux nations tenoit beaucoup de terrain estoit presentement en guerre avec eux depuis quatre ans, auoit toujours de tout temps esté fort unis et alliance ensemble, qu'il me conterait par la suite les raisons qui les auoit brouillés, les panana et pananis fesoit leur fort et cabanes comme eux. Lesté blée et tabac au bas de la riuière qui se trouuoit fort large, ne noyant point la terre dun bord a lautre, l'eau mauuaise à boire, toutes ces terres estoit habitées par des blanc comme nous, qui trauaillait le fer, Le mot de fer parmi toutes les nations dicy est toutes sorte des mesteaux sapelle fer, quil ne marchoit que a cheval tant pour la chasse que pour la guerre, lon ne pouvoit point tués d'homme avec la fleche ny le fusille estant couuert de fer mais que tuant le cheval l'on atrapoit homme facilement, ne pouuant courir, auoir des pare fleche de fer bien clair se batoit avec des lances et sabre dont il estoit bien adroit l'on ne voyait jamais de femme dans les champs, leurs fort et maisons estoit de pierre, je demandé s'il y auoit de beaux bois, si les prairies continuant toujours par hauteur et valon, Il me repondire que le bois estoit le long de la riuière par endroit qu'il y en auoit aussy dans les prairies par iles, plus lon descendoit, plus les cautes augmentoit quil y en auoit beaucoup qui nestoit que des rocher de belle pierre, surtout le long de la riuière, je demandé sil metoit bien du temps a aler ou estoit les blanc, gens de cheval, on me repondit que les panana et pananis auoit des chevaux comme les blanc, il leur faloit tout un esté pour en faire le voyage rien que

is the usual ceremony, answered by loud shouts of joy and thanks. I then said to the Assiniboines: I am sending four Frenchmen to my fort to give my news there; I recommend you to get them to that place as soon as you can. I have left powder in the village and all that is necessary to have them brought. The council ended with loud thanks from both parties. As the Assiniboines did not yet speak of leaving, although they had purchased all they were able to do, such as painted ox-robies, deer skin, dressed buck skin and ornamented furs and feathers, painted feathers, and peltry, wrought garters, circlets for the head, girdles. These people dress leather better than any of the other nations, and work in furs and feathers very tastefully, which the Assiniboines are not capable of doing. They are cunning traders, cheating the Assiniboines of all they may possess, such as muskets, powder, balls, kettles, axes, knives or awls. Seeing the great consumption of food daily by the Assiniboines, and afraid that it would not last long, they set afloat a rumour that the Sioux were near and that several of their hunters had noticed them. The Assiniboines fell into the trap and made up their minds quickly to decamp, not wishing to be obliged to fight. A Mandan chief let me understand by a sign that the rumour about the Sioux was to get rid of the Assiniboines. At six in the morning they all left in great haste, believing the Sioux were near and fearing that the road might be blocked up. The chief with whom I had lodged brought five men to remain with me, saying: My father, I still hope that you will join us for a little; I march peaceably. Here are five of my young men whom I give thee to remain with thee and to guide thee when thou shalt wish to leave. I made him a small present to thank him, telling him that he knew that I had sense and that I intended shortly to reward him for his attention. He left with great protestations of friendship. I was notified shortly after that an interpreter whom I had paid liberally to secure him had decamped in spite of all the offers which my son, the Chevalier, had made him, as he was going after an Assiniboine woman with whom he had fallen in love, but who would not remain with him. He was a young man of the Cree nation speaking good Assiniboine. As there were several Mandans who spoke it well enough, I made myself very well understood, as my son spoke Cree and the Cree interpreted into Assiniboine. But here was the height of misfortune, as we could only make ourselves understood by signs and demonstrations. If I had suspected my interpreter, who every day assured me he would always remain with me and never abandon me, I would have taken advantage of the time I had him with me to make the demands on the Mandans I wished to make. But flattering myself that I had a man on whom I could rely, I put off till after the departure of the Assiniboines. All day I was greatly embarrassed; all that I wanted to know and the few questions which I had put were asked in the evening after everyone had retired; such as, if there were many people along the river going down, and what nations; if the places at a distance were known. I was answered that there were five forts on the two banks of the river, belonging to their nation, much larger than that in which we were; that at a day's journey from the last of their forts were the Pananas, who had several forts; then the Pananis; that these two nations who held much of the country and were now at war for four years, had always from all time been closely united and in alliance together; that he would tell me afterwards the causes which had set them at variance. The Pananas and Pananis made their forts like them. In summer they grew wheat and tobacco on the lower part of the river, which was very wide, land not being visible from one shore to the other; the water bad for drinking. All these lands are inhabited by whites like us, who work in iron. The word iron among all the nations here means all sorts of metals, which they call iron; that they only marched on horseback, both for hunting and war; that these men could not be killed by arrow or musket, being covered with iron, but that by killing the horse the man could be caught easily, as he could not run; that he had a shield of iron very clear, fought with lances and sabres, with which he was very skilful; the women were never seen in fields; their forts and houses were stone. I asked if there were fine woods, and if the prairie continued in heights and hollows. He answered that the



des hommes, depuis qu'ils auoit guerre avec les panama ils n'auoit entreprendre d'aller bien loing, Les chemins estoit bouchés pour eux, que les beuf estoit abondant dans les prairies, plus grand et plus gros de beaucoup que ceux que nous voyons dans les prairies le poil blanc et de plusieurs couleur, il nous montrere des cornes fenduë par la moitié qui tiene bien pres de trois chopines d'une couleur verdastre, Il y en a dans toutes les cabanes qui leur serue de eullier a pot, preuve qu'ils en ont beaucoup tués dans le temps qu'il auoit le chemin libre, C'est tout ce que j'ay peu sauoir encore bien par azard, content fort sur mon interprete et auoir tout le temps de m'informer a font a loysir, le 6 après le despard des assiliboilles, j'enuoyés mon fils le cheualier avec le Sr nolant six françois et plusieurs mantannes au fort le plus près, qui est sur le bord de la riuere. Sil estoit bien receu d'y rostér a coucher de s'informer de leurs mœurs du ruent de vend de la riuere qu'il habite, sil ont connoissance du bas selon ce qui nous en a esté dit, d'on tirér tout ce qu'il pouroit aprendre, Le tout par signe et démonstration, après leurs depart, Mr de Jamarque et moy, nous nous promenâmes, pour obseruér la grandeur de leurs fortification, j'ordonné de contér les cabannes, lon trouua qu'il pouuoit y en auoir cent trente, toutes les ruës places et cabannes se ressemble, plusieurs de nos françois si ecartoit souvent, il tiene les rues et place fort nette, les rempart bien unie et Large, la palissade est apuyés sur des trançers en mortoize dans des poteaux de quinze pieds a quinze points doublé, se sont des peaux verte qu'il mette pour doublage dans le besoin ataché seulement par en haut dans les endroit qu'il est de besoin, Comme dans les bastion il y en a quatre a chaque courtine bien flanqué, le fort est batis sur un hauteur en pleine prairie vn fausée qui a plus de quinze pieds de bas, sur quinze a dix-huit de large, lon ne peut monter a leurs fort que par des marche ou des piesses qu'il aute dans le danger de lenneiny, si tous leurs fort sont pareille on les peut dire imprenable a des sauvages, leurs fortification n'est point du sauvuage; cette nation est d'un sang melée blanc et noir les femmes sont assés belles surtout les blanches beaucoup de cheueux blon et blanc, c'est une nation fort laborieuse, hommes et femmes, leurs cabanne sont grande espacieuse séparé en plusieurs apartemens par des madriers fort large rien ne traîne, tout leurs equipage est dans de grands sac suspendue a des poteaux, leur lits faits en maniere de tombeaux entouré de peaux, tout couche un homme et femme, ces hommes sont toujours nu couuert seulement d'une robe de beuf, une grande partie de femmes nuës comme les hommes avec cette difference quel porte un petit brayet volant large de la main et dun en pied de long cousuë a une seinture par denant seulement, toutes les femmes ont cette espee de modeste quoiqu'il ait une jupe ce qui fait qu'il ne se gene point ou ne se sor point les cuisses comme toutes les femmes sauvagesses pour sasseoir plusieurs porte une espee de camisol dun cuir de chevreuille bien molet, Il y a beaucoup de cheurenille, il est fort petit, leurs fort est rempli de cave ou ils ser tout ce qu'il ont comme grains, viande, graisse, robe passée, peaux d'ours, ils sont bien muni, cest la monoie du pays, plus il en ont plus ils se tiene riche, ayme beaucoup la pieure, il n'ont jamais que la moitié du corps piqué hommes et femmes, il traueille en osier fort proprement plat et corbeille, il se serue de pots de terre qu'ils font comme bien d'autres nations, pour faire enire leur manger, Ils sont pour la plupart grand mangeurs, sont fort pour les festins, l'on maportait tous les jours, plus de vingt plats, blée, feines et sitrouilles, cela tout cuit, m' de la marque qui ne hayssait pas les festins y aloit continuellement avec mes enfants, Comme je ny alois point l'on m'enuoyait mon plat, les hommes sont gros et grand bien alerte pour la plus grande partie assés beaux du visage, belle fisionomie fort a table la plupart des femmes n'ont point la fisionomie sauvage, les hommes joué a une espee de jeu de boule, sur les places et ramparts, Le Sr Nolant et mon fils arriuer le 4 au soir fort satisfait de leurs voyage ayant esté très bien receu et fort sollicité pour rester plus longtemps il me raportère Le fort est sur le bord de la riuere une fois aussi grand que celuy-cy, Les places et ruës fort belles, bien nette, leurs palissade est en meilleure ordre et fortification le tout fait de la même fason que celuy ou nous estions, selon ce qu'il auoit pu entendre, que tout leurs fort estoit pareille, qui voyait un voyait tout, avec cette différence qu'il y en auoit de bien plus grands les uns que les autres, que le dernier estoit le plus grand de tous, Le plus près des

wood was along the river in places and also on the prairies in islands; that the further down the more the hills increased; that many of them were only rocks of fine stone, especially along the river. I asked if it took long to go to where the whites, the horsemen, were. I was answered that the Pananas and Pananis had horses like the whites; it would take a whole summer to make the journey, and that since they were at war with the Pananas the men would not undertake to go far, the roads being closed to them. That cattle were abundant on the prairies, far larger and fatter than those we had seen on their prairies; their coat white and of several colours. He showed us horns split in half, of a greenish colour which hold nearly three pints. In all the huts they have them in use as ladles, proving that they have killed many when the road was open. That was all I could learn even by chance, as I had relied on my interpreter, that I would have time to be thoroughly informed at leisure. Six days after the Assiniboines left I sent my son, the Chevalier, with Sieur Nolant, six Frenchmen and several Mandans to the nearest fort, which is on the bank of the river. If well received they were to sleep there, to get the best information of the course of the river; who dwell there; if they are acquainted with the lower part, in accordance with what was told us; to learn all that could be ascertained by signs and demonstrations. After their departure, Mr. de la Marque and I walked about to observe the size of their fort and their fortifications. I decided to have the huts counted. It was found that there were a hundred and thirty of them. All the streets, squares and huts resembled each other. Several of our Frenchmen wandered about; they found the streets and squares very clean, the ramparts very level and broad; the palisade supported on cross-pieces morticed into posts of fifteen feet. At fifteen points doubled are green skins which are put for sheathing when required, fastened only above in the places needed, as in the bastion there are four at each curtain well flanked. The fort is built on a height in the open prairie with a ditch upwards of fifteen feet deep by fifteen to eighteen feet wide. Their fort can only be gained by steps or posts which can be removed when threatened by an enemy. If all their forts are alike, they may be called impregnable to Indians. Their fortifications are not Indian. This nation is mixed white and black. The women are fairly good-looking, especially the white, many with blond and fair hair. Both men and women of this nation are very laborious; their huts are large and spacious, separated into several apartments by thick planks; nothing is left lying about; all their baggage is in large bags hung on posts; their beds made like tombs surrounded by skins; all go to bed naked, men and women. These men are always naked, covered only with a buffalo robe; a great part of the women naked like the men, with this difference, that they wear a loose apron, about a hand breadth wide and a foot long, sewed to a girdle in front only; all the women have this kind of protecton, although they have a petticoat which gives no constraint, they do not close the thighs; as is the case with other Indian women when they sit down. Several carry a kind of gown of very soft deer skin; there are many deer, they are very small. Their fort is full of caves, in which are stored such articles as grain, food, fat, dressed robes, bear skins. They are well supplied with these; it is the money of the country; the more they have of it the richer they believe themselves to be. They are fond of tattooing, but never more than half of the body is tattooed, both of men and women. They make wicker work very neatly, flat and in baskets. They make use of earthen pots, which they use like many other nations for cooking their food. They are for the most part great eaters; are eager for feasts. They brought me every day more than twenty dishes of wheat, beans and pumpkins, all cooked. Mr. de la Marque, who did not hate feasts, went to them continually with my children. As I did not go to them, my share was sent to me. The men are stout and tall, generally very active, fairly good looking, with a good physiognomy. The women have not the Indian physiognomy. The men indulge in a sort of ball play on the squares and ramparts.

On the evening of the 4th, the Sieur Nolant and my son arrived, well satisfied with their journey, having been well received and strongly urged to remain longer. The fort is on the bank of the river, as large again as this; the squares and streets

panama, que la rivière paroissoit aller selon la boursele aux sud-ouest quard de sud par les signes que on leur avoit fait le bas peut, se rendre à la mer au sud ouest quard ouest qu'il jonoit souvent au propos interrompu ne pouvant satendre Les demandes qu'il leurs fesoit, il repondoit d'autres choses, faute de pouvoir s'entendre, leaux de leur riviere desend avec une grande rapidité, beaucoup de bature, n'est pas des meilleure a boire, estant un peu salée. Nous auons toujours trouvée depuis la dernière montagne presque tous les maraix et estands salées, ou soufrée, que tout ce qu'il avoit pu comp [rendre] est qu'il y avoit des hommes comme nous au bas de la riviere, fesoit de lestoffes et toilles estoit fort nombreux, avoit guerres, avec une grande partie des sauvages, noyant qu'il estoit inutile a nous de vouloir les questionnée ne pouvant nous entendre, nous nauons cessé destre en festin tout le temps que nous auons restés a leur fort, encore nous nauons peu aler a tous ceux ou nous estions priés, nous auons remarqué que dans la plaine il y a plusieurs petits forts de quarante a cinquante cabannes, construit comme les grand, il ny a personne pour le present, il nous ont fai tendre qu'il si retiroit lesté dedans pour travaillée a leurs champs, qu'il y avoit beaucoup de grain dans les caves en réserve. C'est tout ce qu'il me pouait donnée de connoissance de leurs noyage, j'ordonné a mon fils de prendre hauteur le huit de Decembre. Il trouva quarante huit degres douze minutes, je consulté le 7 au soir avec mr de lamarque sur le party que nous deuions prendre. Il sauoit comme moi qu'il nous restoit peu de chose pour de present, ce qui nous mestoit dans l'impossible d'aler plus loin, la saison trop fichense pour pouvoir rien entreprendre par dessus tout point d'interprete ny esperance den auoir de l'hiver, nous auons tout lieux de eraindre, que les Chemins ne deuinse impraticable pour le printemps par raport aux eaux, et en risque d'ariuer trop tard pour le départ de nos canots, la poudre que je pouois auoir, ne seroit peut estre pas suffisante pour fournir a tous nos besoins dans le cours de l'hiver, et le peu de marchandises qu'il me restoit, nous pourrions nous trouver embarrassés avec tout notre monde, nayant plus rien pour nous faire conduire, que le sauvages ne rendoit service quantant que lon le paynit et danace, qu'il regardoit les promesses, comme une bien petite ressource, d'une autre costé que nous auions lieux dapreender à nous mettre en marche, dans la plus rude saison de l'année, après auoir balancé, le tout nous decidames qu'il nous falloit partir lessér seulement deux hommes capable de pouvoir apprendre la langue en peux en lesser vn dans le fort ou nous estions et lautre dans le fort le plus près, estant seul qu'il apprendroit bien plus uitte et nous pourroit donner par la suite toutes connoissances mr de lamarque choisit un de ses engagés homme d'esprit [qu'il m'o]ffrit comme estant un des plus capables sachant escrire, je l'accepté avec plaisir et lui donnée pour second mon domestique, qui m'estoit cependant fort utile et fort atachés a mon service je préférés a m'en priuér à l'uitilité qu'il me pourroit estre par la suite, luy connoissant un esprit fort uif beaucoup de memoire grande facilité pour les langues, bien sage et bien craignant Dieu, je leur donnés une bonne instruction de tout ce qu'il auoit a faire et Mr de lamarque de son costé leurs promettent de les enuoyer chercher dans le cours de l'esté prochain, Cela finit pour les deux hommes que je lessois, j'auertis nos cinq assiliboilles, à qui je fis entendre que je voulois partir en pen ce qu'il leur fit grand joye, je leur montré par signe ne pouvant me faire entendre autrement qu'il falloit partir deux avec deux françois des le lendemain au matin que tout ce qui leur faudroit seroit prêt, pour se rendre en diligence au village les auertir de nous atendre. que je partirois quatre jours après eux, que j'alés tout préparé pour mon voyage je donné ensuite conoissance aux mantannes de mon dessein, cela parut leurs faire bien du chagrin, je leur montré les deux françois que je lessois a ma place en leur recommandant d'en auoir bien soin Il me firent de grand remerciements avec de grandes protestation d'amitié et fidelité, je leur donois a connoitre par la que je ne les abandonois pas, je demandé au Chef que l'on me fit de la farine groulée, pour notre voyage, la nouvelle fut bien tost repandue dans tout le fort, le 8. au matin, je fis partir deux françois conduit par deux assiliboilles comme j'ay déjà parlé pour aller auertir le vilage de mon despart, lon maporta de ces farinnes de blé groulée dans la journée bien plus qu'il ne me falloit, je remerciés en donnant quelques eguilles qu'il estime beaucoup, il mauroit chargés

very fine and clean; their palisade is in the best order and strength; the whole built in the same fashion as the one in which we were. From what they could hear, all their forts were alike; who saw one saw them all, with this difference, that some were much larger than others; that the last was the largest of all. The nearest to the Pananas that the river appeared to go was, according to the compass, south-west by south, by signs given to them; the lower part may go to the sea to the south-west by west. They were often amused with broken talk; not being able to answer questions put to them, they answered something else, for want of understanding. The waters of their rivers come down with great rapidity, having many shoals. The water is not good for drinking, being brackish. We have constantly found from the last mountain almost all the marshes and ponds brackish, or sulphurous. What they could understand was, that on the lower part of the river there were men like us, who made cloth and linen, were very numerous, and had wars with a large part of the Indians. We saw that it was useless to question them, as they could not understand us. We did not cease going to their feasts all the time we were at their fort, but could not attend all those to which we were asked. We noticed that in the plain there were several small forts, of forty or fifty huts, built like the large ones, but no one was there at the time. They made us understand that they came inside for the summer to work their fields and that there was a large reserve of grain in their cellars. This is all the information they could give of their journey. On the 8th of December, I ordered my son to take the altitude which was forty-eight degrees, twelve minutes. On the evening of the 7th I had consulted with Mr. de la Marque as to the course we should take. Like myself, he knew that little remained with us for presents, which rendered it impossible for us to go further; the season too trying to be able to undertake anything, and above all, no interpreter nor any hope of getting one during the winter. We had every reason to fear that the roads would become impracticable in spring on account of the waters and with the risk of arriving too late for the setting out of our canoes; the powder I would have would not perhaps be enough to supply all our wants during the winter and with the small quantity of goods remaining we might find ourselves in a difficulty about all our people, having no longer anything to carry us on, as the Indians would only serve us so far as they were paid and that in advance, as they looked on promises as a very small resource. On the other hand, that we had reason to apprehend setting out on a march in the worst season of the year. After having considered the whole, we decided that we must set out, leaving two men fit to learn the language in a short time, one in the fort in which we were and the other in the nearest fort, as being alone they could learn much more quickly and could consequently give all the information. Mr. de la Marque selected one of his hired men, a man of intelligence, whom he offered me as being one of the most capable, able to write. I accepted him with pleasure and gave him my servant as the second, although he was very useful to me, as well as very useful and attached to my service, I preferred to deprive myself of him for the good he might afterwards render, knowing his strong and quick intellect, with a good memory and facility in learning languages, very wise and fearing God. I gave him full instructions of all he had to do, and on his side, Mr. de la Marque promised to send to look after them next summer. That ended, so far as regarded the two men whom I left. I notified our five Assiniboines, whom I made to understand that I wished to set out shortly, which gave them much joy. I showed them by signs, not being able to make myself understood otherwise, that it would be necessary for them to set out with two Frenchmen on the morning of the next day, that everything would be ready for them, so that they might go speedily to the village to warn them to expect us; that I would leave four days after them, so that I might prepare everything for the journey. I then informed the Mandans of my design, which appeared to give them much sorrow. I showed them the two Frenchmen whom I left in my place, recommending that they should be taken good care of. They gave me many thanks, with great protestations of friendship and fidelity. I then let them know that I would not abandon them. I asked the chief to give me meal for the journey. The news soon spread throughout

cent hommes dans la journée en peu de temps, tout s'empressoit de m'en apporter, je fis prendre a tous nos gens ce qu'il en voulure, cela fut fait en tres peu de tems, ayant pourveu a tout ce qui estoit de besoin a tout notre monde, je fis assembler les chefs et principaux mantannes, leurs fis un présent de poudre balles et plusieurs menuité qu'il estime beacoup par le besoin ou il en sont, je donné au premier chef vn pauillon, luy donné une plaque de plom, que j'auois ornée par les quatre coing auée du ruban l'on la mit dans une boëte pour estre gardé a perpetuité, en memoire de la prise de possession que je fesois au nom du Roy de leurs terres, elle sera bien gardée de pere en fils mieux que si je leuse mise en terre ou elle auroit pu courir risque destre friponé, je leurs fis comprendre du mieux que je peus que je leurs lessois cette marque en memoire des françois venue sur leurs terres, j'auois fort souhaité me pounoir faire entendre pour leurs dire bien de choses, qui leurs auroit esté fort utile et a nous ce qui ne se pouuoit a mon grand regret et aux leur. J'auois travaillé avec tant de diligence que le nuit au soir tout estoit prêt pour notre despart, que je contoies preuenir plustot que je nauois marqué, je tombé malade la nuit du 8. au 9. je me trouué en bien peu de temps fort mal, je ne sauois que enpenser, je gardé le lit trois jours, me trouuant mieux le quatrieme je me disposé a partir le lendemain je donné aux deux hommes que je lessois de quoy les defrayér gracement et mesme pour payér un guide si besoin estoit pour les ramener a notre fort, les instruisent encore derechef du sujet qui m'obligoit a les lesser la, si tost quil pourroit se faire entendre de ne rien négliger pour conoitre quel estoit cette nation de blanc quel fer est quil travaillait, sil y auoit quelque minnes a leurs conoissances, quel nation au desue. En montant la riuère sil conoisoit un hauteur des terres, en un mot ne rien negliger pour auoir toutes les conoissance possible du pais.

Je partis quoyque malade, dans lesperance que cela ne seroit rien, et que je rétrouuerois ma boete au vilage, dans la quelle j'auois mis quelque remede le 13. de desembre au grand regret de tous les mantannes un chef nous vint conduire jusque a une lieuë et demy dou je le rennoyé, il me temoigna par de grande demonstrations le regret quil auoit de mon despart me faisant signe de ne point l'embandonner de reuenir quil nous acompagneroit; je luy donné un petit present de poudre en luy recommandant derechef les deux françois que je leurs lessois, il me fit signe quil en aloit prendre un ches luy, je le congedié apres auoit bien fait de remerciements, le soir je mapersue que nous nauions que deux assiliboilles avec nous, il me fire entendre quil en estoit resté un avec nos françois ne voulant point les abandonner quil ne reuiendrait que dans lesté auée eux, j'arriuée au vilage le 24. toujours bien mal nous auions esuyés des froit exesue qui nous causere un grand retardement, l'on me rendit ma boëte, rien ny auoit esté touché il sestoit contenté du sac de lesclaue que l'on me rendit uide, estant un peu reposée, je leurs fis reproche de ce quil mauoit menty au sujet des mantannes de tout ce quil mauoit dit j'auois trouué bien peu de verités, lon me repondit quil nauoit pas pretendue parler des mantannes en disant quil estoit comme nous quil auoit pretendü parler de cette nation qui est au bas de la riuere, qui trauaille le fer, un assiliboille se leua audessus des autres en me disant celuy icy le seul qui ten peus mieux parler, tu n'a pas bien entendu ce que l'on tu dit, je ne ment point Lesté dernier j'en ai tués un, qui estoit couuert de fer comme j'ay déjà dit plusieurs fois, si je nauois pas tués le cheval le premier je nauois pas héu l'homme je luy dis qu'a tu apportés a sa depouille pour nous faire noir que tu dis uray, comme je luy unolois couper la teste j'apereu des hommes a cheual qui me conpoit le chemin j'éu bien de la peine a me sauuer, je n'auois garde de rien apporter je cheté tout ce que j'auois jusque a ma couuerture me sauend nue, ce que je dis est uraye je te le ferés dire par d'autre qui estoit avec moy, ce printemps prochain, il ne sont point icy actuellement mais tu les uoyra ce que j'ay dit je te le repete encor, on ne uoye point l'autre cauté de la riuère leaux est salée c'est un pais de montagne, grande espace entre les montagnes de beau terein quantité de beuf gros et grand blanc et de diferente couleur beaucoup de serf et de cheurreille, j'ay ueu de leurs champ de blée on y uoit point de femmes ce que je te dis est sens desein tu en apprendra plus par la suite, je continués ma route après trois jours de repos, je me rendis a la première montagne le 9

the fort. On the morning of the 8th, I made the two Frenchmen set out, guided by two Assiniboines, as I have already said, to go to warn the village of my departure. Wheat flour pounded for the journey was brought, much more than was necessary. I thanked them, giving them some needles which they greatly value. They would have loaded a hundred men for the journey; in a short time all hastened to bring me some. I made all our people take what they wished, which was done in a very short time. Having provided for all that our people needed, I assembled the chiefs and principal Mandans, made them a present of powder, balls and several trifles, which they greatly value, owing to their need for them. I gave the head chief a flag, gave him a leaden plate, which I had ornamented with ribbon at the four corners. It was put into a box to be kept in perpetuity, in memory of my taking possession of their lands, which I did in the King's name. It will be preserved from father to son, better than if I had put it in the ground, where it would have run the risk of being stolen. I made them understand as well as I could, that I left them that mark in memory of the Frenchmen who had come upon their lands. I very much desired I could have made them understand, in order to tell them many things which might have been very useful to them and to us, which to my regret and to theirs I could not do. I had wrought with so much diligence, that on the evening of the eighth every thing was ready for our departure, which I calculated to accomplish sooner than I had given notice of. During the night, between the 8th and 9th, I was taken ill, and in a very short time was very ill; I did not know what to think of it. I kept my bed for three days. Finding myself better on the fourth, I prepared to set out the next day. I gave the two men enough to defray their expenses liberally, and even to pay a guide, if need were to bring them to our fort; informed them once again of the cause which obliged me to leave them there. So soon as they could make themselves understood, they were to neglect nothing to learn what was this nation of whites, what metal they worked with; if there were any mines to their knowledge; what nations were above, going up the river; if they knew a height of land—in a word, to neglect nothing to obtain all possible information respecting the country.

I set out, although ill, in the hope that it would be nothing and that I would recover at the village my box in which I had put some remedies. On the 13th of December, to the great regret of all the Mandans, a chief came to conduct us a league and a half's distance, whence I sent him back; he testified to me by great demonstrations the regret he felt at my departure, making a sign that I would not abandon him, but to return and that he would accompany us. I gave him a small present of powder, once more recommending the two Frenchmen whom I left with them. He made me a sign that he would take one to his own house. I dismissed him after giving him many thanks. In the evening I noticed that we had only two Assiniboines with us. They made me understand that one had remained with our Frenchmen, not wishing to abandon them; that they would return only in summer with them. I arrived at the village on the 24th, still very ill. We had experienced excessive cold, which caused great delay. My box was restored to me; nothing had been touched; they had been satisfied with the slave's bag, which was returned to me empty. Having rested a little, I reproached them for lying to me respecting the Mandans; that there was very little truth in all they had told me. They answered, that they had not pretended to speak of the Mandans, saying that they were like us, that they had intended to speak of that nation which is at the lower part of the river, who work in iron. An Assiniboine rose above the others, saying to me: This is the only one who can speak better to thee about it; thou hast not understood properly what was said to thee; I do not lie. Last summer I killed one who was covered with iron, as I have already said several times. If I had not killed the horse first, I could not have killed the man. I said to him: What hast thou brought of his spoil to show us that thou speakest the truth? As I wished to cut off his head, I noticed men on horseback, who were blocking the way, I escaped with difficulty; I kept nothing to carry off; I threw away every thing I had even to my blanket, in my flight. What I say is true, and I will have it told to thee by others who were with me the following spring. They are not here now, but thou shalt see them. What I have said I repeat; the other side of the river

de jennier ou nous auons séjournée longtems m<sup>r</sup> delamarque prit le partis de sen aler deuiend, me uoyant toujours bien mal, dans le dessein de m'enuoyer du secour, il arriua le premier de feuriér, je nariuée que le dix, bien fatigués et bien mal, jauois heu le secour quil m'auoit enuoyés à trente-cinq lieues du fort, qui me fit bien plesir en ayant grand besoin, je nay jamais de ma nie enduré tant de misère mal et fatigues que dans ce uoyage la, je me suis trouuée en quinze jour de repos un peu restablie, m<sup>r</sup> de lamarque atendoit mon arriuée pour prendre son partis a aler au fort de morpas ayant appris quil ny auoit point de niures, je luy dis que je pençois sa presence estoit bien lutile dans son poste, il se détermina a partir, me demanda a lesser m<sup>r</sup> son frère, avec une grande partis de ces engagés pour niures à mon fort se flatent quil y auoit plus desperance de uoir du monde, nous n[ous somm]es trouuée bien prest de jeuner, heureusement quil nous est venue deux cabannes de sauuages, que jay aresté aux fort il nous font uiure par leurs chasse dorignal et biehe, nous sommes quarante-deux personnes dans le fort, Cela fait une grande consommation, m<sup>r</sup> de lamarque est partis le 16 du mois jay receu de ses nouuelles peux de temps après, il me marque quil apreन्द bien de jeuner ne uoyant pas grand sauuages, nous voila maintenant au saise daurille et nous nauons encore veu personnes, je ne say ce que Dieu nous garde.

J'ay fait partir mon fils le cheualier ce matin 16 daurille avec un sauuage pour alér faire la descouuerte du fort du lac Snipigon, et prendre conoissance des rivières qui tombe dedans, surtout de la riuère blanche, ou j'ay dessein d'alér aux retour de nos canots, de la mine qui est dans le lac et de celle qui est dans la rivièrre blanche de la décharge du lac, en faire le tour, tachés dempêcher les sauuages dalér aux Englois, leurs fesent espérer nôtre arriuée en peux.

J'ay receu une lettre de M<sup>r</sup> de lamarque le 23 daurille qui me marque nauoir heu encore aucun sauuage quil a pris son partis pour les alér trouuér dans la grande riuère de Snipigon ou il sont affaire leurs canots.

Je pense que c'est embandonner de bonheur le poste, les sauuages pouroit de la riuère rouge arivé après leur despard. le 22 du present mois j'ay appris par un sauuage quune grande bande d'assiliboilles cestoit rangés dans le lac des prairies, qui travaillait affaire des canots, pour allér aux Englois.

J'ay enuoyé le 24. Senchagrin avec un engagés pour les amener icy, enfin de les destourner dalér aux Englois.

Le 30. il nous est arivée cinq assiliboilles sur le soir pour mauertir qu'il uenit bien du monde, nous en auons grand besoin, nayant rien fait jusqua present.

Le 3. de may cette grande bande c'est reduit a bien peux de monde.

Le 10 M<sup>r</sup> nolan desesperend quil viene davantage du monde ma demandés a partir me representant quil nauoit plus de vivres ne pouuant rester plus longtems, j'ay fait mon possible pour lengager a patientér encore quelque temps estant bien facheux quil partit a leige.

Le voyant desterminee a partir je luy ay permis.

Le même jour 10. au soir il nous est arivé quinze assiliboilles pour nous avertir quil estoit de soixante cabannes que lon leur auoit dit que nous estions partis.

Je les ay renvoyés avec du tabac pour les faire pressér de venir. Ils sont arivée le 18 et fait leur trette en pen de temps.

Ceux la partis le 20. trois hommes ont arivée pour me prier de differer le despard quil aloit arivée trente cabannes.

Je les ay fait partir avec diligence leur donnant du tabac pour dire a leur gens de se presser de venir.

J'ay descouuér ces jours icy une riuère qui desend dans l'ouest tous les lacs et rivières que j'ay heu de conoissance vont a la baye du deson mer du nor hor la riuère des mantannes.

J'en prendré une entiere conoissance cet été par moy-même ou par personne commis de ma part.

J'ay fait différé le depart de mes canots jusque au 28 du mois pour attendre du monde inutilement il n'en est uenué que peu il remette tous a me uenir uoir dans l'Estée.

cannot be seen; the water is salt; it is a country of mountains; a great extent between the mountains of fine land; many cattle, big and stout, white and of different colours, many stags and deer; I have seen their wheat fields, where no women are to be seen; what I tell thee is without deceit; thou wilt learn further of it afterwards. I continued my journey after three days rest. I reached the first mountain on the 9th of January, where we remained a long time. Mr. de la Marque made up his mind to go on, seeing me still very ill, in order to send me assistance. He arrived on the first of February; I arrived only on the 10th, greatly fatigued and very ill. I met the assistance he sent me at thirty-five leagues from the fort, which gave me great pleasure, having great need of it. I have never endured so much wretchedness in my life, from illness and fatigue, as in that journey. I found myself, after a fortnight's rest, a little restored. Mr. de la Marque waited my arrival to carry out his design of going to Fort Maurepas, having learned that there were no provisions. I told him that I thought his presence would be very useful in his post. He determined to set out, asking me to leave his brother with a large party of hired men for provisions at my fort, flattering themselves that there was more hope there of seeing people. We were nearly starving, when fortunately two huts of Indians came, whom I stopped at the fort. They supplied us by their hunting moose and deer. We numbered forty-two persons in the fort, which means a large consumption of food. Mr. de la Marque left on the 16th of the month. I received news from him shortly after. He informed me that he dreaded a famine, not seeing Indians. We are now in the 16th of April and have not yet seen any one. I do not know how God preserves us.

I sent my son, the Chevalier, that morning, the 16th of April, with an Indian to go to make a search for the fort of Lake Winipigon, and to take notice of the rivers which fall into it, especially the White River (to which I intend to go on the return of our canoes), from the mine which is in the lake, and from that which is in the White River, from the outlet of the lake, to notice the turn of it, and endeavour to prevent the Indians from going to the English, by making them hope for our speedy arrival.

I received a letter from Mr. de la Marque on the 23rd of April, which notified me that he had not yet had any of the Indians; that he has decided to go to find them in the great river Winipigon where they are engaged building their canoes.

I think he is leaving the post too early; the Indians might arrive from the Red River after his departure. On the 22nd of the present month I learned from an Indian that a large band of Assiniboines had drawn up on the Lake of the Prairies who were working on their canoes to go to the English.

On the 24th I sent Sanschagrin with a hired man to bring them here so as to turn them from going to the English.

On the 30th five Assiniboines arrived towards evening to let me know that a large number of people was coming; we have much need of them, having done nothing till now.

On the 3rd of May this great band was reduced to very few.

On the 10th, Mr. Nolant, despairing at no more coming, asked leave to set out, representing to me that there were no more provisions and that they could not remain longer. I did my best to induce him to have patience for some time yet, being much vexed that he should go empty.

Seeing him determined to set out, I gave him permission.

On the same day, the 10th, in the evening, fifteen Assiniboines arrived to notify us that there were sixty huts coming and that they had been told we had gone.

I sent them back with tobacco to hasten their coming. They arrived on the 18th and did their trading in a short time. These left. On the 20th, three men arrived to beg me to delay our departure, that thirty huts would arrive. I made them set out with speed, giving them tobacco to tell their people to hasten their coming.

I discovered these days a river flowing to the west. All the lakes and rivers of which I have had any knowledge go to Hudson's Bay, the Northern Sea, except the Mandan River.



Il sont si beste qu'il pense que lon les va attendre une partie de l'Estée et quil sera toujours assés temps pour emporter leurs castor.

Je leurs promets bien sitost mon fils ariué et les deux hommes que j'ay laissés au mantannes descamper d'icy au plus vitte.

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I will obtain complete knowledge of it this summer, either by myself or some person on my behalf.

I have deferred the departure of my canoes till the 28th of the month, waiting uselessly for the people to come; only a few arrived, all postponing their coming till summer.

They are so stupid that they think they will be waited for into the summer, and that there will always be time enough to carry off their beavers.

I promised them that as soon as my son and the two men arrived, whom I had left with the Mandans, I would remove as from this quickly as possible.

No. 2.—CAPTAIN GEORGE DIXON TO EVAN NEPEAN.

(*Archives, series Q, vol. 49 p. 354.*)

SIR,—Since I had the Honor of a personal conversation with you have seen Mr. Dalrymple who agrees with me that it is too late for the undertaking by way of Hudson's Bay and that to go by way of Quebec is only losing time. It is his Opinion that a ship should be sent by Government as soon as possible round Cape Horn and a Settlement made on the other side, and from thence the journey should be undertaken.

His reasons for this are. The Russians having got full possession of Cook's River—Prince Wms. Sound; and he makes no doubt but they will soon have settlements to the Southward, as they are in possession of all the Information Mr. Etches is enabled to give, who is at Petersburg on that Business at this present time.

The Americans last year had a ship on the Coast, she as yet is not arrived—two were there under Portuguese colours and I am told of one under Swedish, to say nothing of the Spaniards who we are sure are extending their settlements Northwards.

Upon the whole I am afraid if something is not done and that immediately this valuable Branch of Commerce will be lost to this Country and in consequence of that Loss the Traders both from Hudson's Bay and Canada will find themselves in a bad neighbourhood.

I am, Sir,  
Your humble servt.,  
GEO. DIXON.

No. 6 Jas. St.,  
Govt. Garden,  
July 14th, 1789.

No. 3.—ISAAC OGDEN, QUEBEC, TO DAVID OGDEN, LONDON.

(*Archives, series Q, vol. 49, p. 357.*)

An extract of a Letter from Isaac Ogdén, Esq., at Quebec, to David Ogdén, Esq., of London, dated Quebec, 7th Novemr., 1789.

In my last Letter I gave you some account of the extent of the Commerce, and of this Country, and as I am convinced that common Report of estimation of Distance, &c., will not be satisfactory to a Philosophic mind, and as since I have had an opportunity of seeing a map or chart of that Country made by a Gentleman of observation and Science, who has actually traversed it, and made his map in it, and with whom I have this week had several Conversations, with the map before me, I am able to give you all the satisfaction you wish for, exclusive of the map itself, which I could not get a copy of, but I hope to send it to you the next Summer.

The following are observations that I took from the map.

It begins at the upper end of Lake Superior, in Lat. 46-47 North, where there is a Portage of near 9 miles before you enter the waters communicating to the North West.

The Mississippi heads in the same Lat. with the head of Lake Superior, about 10 Degrees of Longitude to the westward of it, and from the Portage there is a water Communication to that River, and down it, which is only interrupted by the Falls of St. Anthony. The traders go on this Course Westward, leaving the Mississippi to the Eastward one thousand miles; and may go south west down the Mississippi to its mouth.

The furs much inferior to those on the North West trading Posts.

From the end of the Portage at the Head of Lake Superior, all the Lakes and waters as high up as Lat. 58 and Long. 124 set first to the North-West and North, and then take a South Easterly and South course, and empty into York River, (Hudson's Bay). These Lakes and Rivers are almost innumerable.

Some of them are very large such as the Lake Winnipeg, Lake of the Woods and others. The Mouth of York River lays in Long. 94 West and Lat. 57. It is an extensive large River setting nearly West, and is supplied by the above Lakes and Rivers which fall into it from the North and South.

The Hudson's Bay Company have Posts several hundred miles west from them, but none to the Northward;—Our Traders pass them at one of their posts about the Lat. 57 and Long. 110. A Chain of Lakes, &c., continue from thence to the Lat. 58 & Long. 124 when with a small Portage they enter into the Rivers and Lakes that run a North West course and empty into other Lakes and Rivers, which all finally communicate and empty into a great Lake called the Slave Lake, which lays between the Lat. of 63 & 65, being three degrees in width, & Long. from 125 to 135, and this Lake is the last water before you come to the Great Northern Ocean, which lays in Lat. 68½ & in the Long. 132 where the water ebbs & flows, of which the Gentleman gave me indubitable Proofs.

The Lakes that empty into the Great Slave Lake, at least the largest of them are named the Arabaska (which has a large River running into Slave Lake of three or four hundred miles at least in Length, its course North West) the Lake, or rather the upper Lake of the Woods, or Lake of the Hills (there being one near Lake Superior) and this Lake extends itself near 8 degrees of Long. and lays in Lat. 60 and the Lake Pelican which is also large, and besides these there are a number of small Lakes.

The River that carries all these Waters into the Slave Lake is called Slave River and is very large, it runs North West several hundred miles in Length.

From out of the Great Slave Lake runs a very large River, which runs almost South West, and has the largest Falls on it in the known World, it is at least two miles wide where the Falls are, and an amazing Body of Water. This River leaves the Lake in Lat. 64 & Long. 135, & the Falls are in Long. 141.

The great chain of Mountains that extend from Mexico along the Western or Pacific Ocean, and the Northern Pacific Ocean, terminates in Lat. 62½ & Longitude 136, so that the Slave River runs to the Westward of them and emptys into the Ocean by its course in about the Lat. of 59.

There is no wood to the Northward of Slave Lake, there is only a little low Brush which is filled with a species of Buffaloes which have no Tails, but have long Hair on the Back of their Thighs & Legs that resemble a Tail. They are smaller than the common Buffaloes.

When you have proceeded thus far, & have looked over your map, you will readily conjecture what River the above Slave Lake River is known by, when it emptys into the Ocean. To save you much Trouble I will tell you it is Cook's River, which he penetrated upwards of 70 Leagues North Eastwd., as you will see by his chart. Cook's River as he has laid it down in his chart (that is the Mouth of it) lays in Lat. 59-40 & Long. West 154.

His calculation and laying it down was East Longitude, but if you deduct his Eastern Long. from 360 you will find it to be 154 West. His course up the River was North Easterly, the course of the River out of Slave Lake was South Westerly.

He traversed his River that course near 70 Leagues North Easterly, the River out of Slave Lake is known as far South Westerly, therefore the distance to form the Junction or to ascertain the River to be the same is very short. The Mouth of Slave River at the Lake is in Lat. 64 & Long. 134. The mouth of Cook's River is in Lat. 59-40 & Long. 154. The Course is North Easterly and South Westerly. The Degrees of Long. in that Lat. are but little more than 26 miles upon the Average to a Degree, and the Difference of the Lat. only about 4 Degrees. Hence, and as there is no other known Vent for the River setting out of Slave Lake, nor any other River in that Country to the Northward, or Southward of Slave Lake to form such a River as Cook's River, there can be no doubt, but the Source of Cook's River is now fully discovered and known. There are other Proofs that are incontestable—Cook found a great quantity of drift wood on the Coast. This wood is only found on the Banks of the River that emptys into Slave Lake. Neither are there any Rivers of any size from the near Approach of the Mountains to the Sea to the Eastward of the Lake. The Rivers of Arabaska, Slave and Mountain, which empty into Slave Lake are annually twice overflown, in the month of May by the breaking up of the Ice, and in the month of August by the melting of the Snow on the Mountains. Hence then is accounted for the quantity of drift wood which Capt. Cook met with, and these could only be launched into the Ocean from Cook's River—for as I have already observed, there can be no extensive River to the Southward of Cook's River, or the River that empties out of Slave Lake, as the great Chain of Mountains approach to the verge of Slave Lake & River.

Another Proof is, that the Gentleman (from whose Chart and from whom I collected the above Information) met with two Indians who came, as they said up a River from the Northern Pacific Ocean, all the way to the Slave Lake.

They brought him in 1787 a Blanket which they received from Vessels which were at the Mouth of the River; they say that the River he was in is large to the place of Discharge and Navigable, so that if we take the Latitude and Longitude of the two Rivers, the Courses, and all the other circumstances into consideration, little doubt remains that they are the same.

In the Northern part of the Slave Lake there was a great quantity of Ice on the 15th July, 1787, and in that year the Indians from that Lake penetrated North, and where the waters ebb and flow.

At the Northern Ocean they met with and killed a number of Esquimaux Indians, which Indians are to be found only on the Banks or Boundary of the Ocean from the Labrador Coast Northward, and they are found on the whole Extent of that Coast as far North as we have any knowledge. Cook went as far North as 72 or 73 and was there obstructed by the Ice. He was there in August, my Informant tells me, that if he had been a month later, he would have met with no obstruction from Ice in that Quarter. This I believe, and at the middle of September he might have passed the Northern Coast of America, and have returned to Europe by that Rout. On the North Western Coast of America there is a large or long Point of Land that extends to the Lat. of 71 or further, and then the Coast trends South Easterly so that when you are in Long. 128 the Ocean washes the Land in the Lat. of 68½.

The Inferences that I shall now draw are,

1st. That Lake Superior lays in the first Range of High Lands between this and the Western Ocean, in Lat. 46, 47 & the waters from thence are discharged by the Rivers St. Lawrence and Mississippi.

2nd. That the waters to the Westward and Northward of the Lake up as high as Lat. 58 & Long. 124 discharge themselves by an Eastern course into York River, which empties into Hudson's Bay.

3rd. That in Lat. 58, lays the great Height of Land from whence the waters divide and run Easterly and Westerly. The former into the Atlantic and the latter into the Pacific Ocean.

4th. That the great Slave Lake is the most Northerly large piece of water before you arrive at the Northern Ocean, and that the River which rises from that Lake empties into the Northern Pacific Ocean, and is the River that Cook discovered.

5th. That an easy communication with, and an advantageous commerce may be carried on by Posts established on Lakes Slave, Arabaska, Pelicam, &c. &c., and to deliver the Fruits of their commerce at the Mouth of Cook's River, to be then carried to China &c., and that as Cook's River and the Lands on Slave Lake, Arabaska &c. are very fine, some advantageous settlements may be made there which may be beneficial to Government.

The Country about Arabaska is exceedingly fine, and the Climate more moderate than it is here, which is owing to its Propinquity to the Western Ocean. The Distance is not more than 200 Leagues, if so much, on a West South Western Course. We have a Post there, as we have on the different Lakes from Lake Superior to the upper end of Slave Lake, the number of Posts is 21, in that distance where Traders are posted to trade with the different Tribes of Indians.

The distance from this Town to the Head of Lake Superior is 750 Leagues and from the Head of Lake Superior to the Great Slave Lake is one thousand Leagues, in the whole 1750 Leagues.

The person from whom I had my Information is Peter Pond, who was supplied with the proper Instruments here to take his Latitude and instructed fully in the knowledge of Astronomy &c. &c. His Latitude is undoubtedly Right and his Longitude is near Right. It was taken by some Persons sent from York River seven hundred miles to the westward of it, and from thence by the Courses of the Rivers and Lakes, no great mistake can be made.

Perhaps another use might be made in time of War by this Rout, which would be to convey Intelligence to the East Indies by that Rout.

Another man by the name of McKenzie was left by Pond at Slave Lake with orders to go down the River, and from thence to Unalaska, and so to Kamskatsha, and thence to England through Russia &c. If he meets with no accident you may have him with you next year.

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No. 3a.—DAVID OGDEN TO EVAN NEPEAN.

(Archives, series Q, vol. 49, p. 356.)

SIR,—Having received from my son Isaac Ogden of Quebec a letter dated 7th Novem. 1789 giving an account of a Mr. Pond's having explored the interior parts of North America, I have the honor to inclose you an extract of said Letter as the same may afford some advantageous Information to Government, which, if you think proper you will lay before Mr. Grenville.

I have the Honor to be Sir,  
Your most obedt. & very humble serv.,

DAVID OGDEN.

RATHBONE PLACE, No. 50,  
January 23d, '90.

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No. 4.—MEMORANDUM BY ALEXANDER DALRYMPLE ON THE ROUTE FOR DISCOVERIES.

(Archives, series Q, vol. 49, p. 368.)

2nd Feby. 1790.

The season being so far advanced renders a voyage round Cape Horn *inexpedient*, I do not say *impracticable*, for admitting a Vessel to sail the beginning of March, we cannot fairly suppose less than three months to double Cape Horn, which

brings it to June, the beginning of winter in South Latitude. Allow three months more to the N. W. Coast of America. This brings it to September, which is the beginning of winter there. But altho' it is therefore an inexpedient season to proceed round Cape Horn on discovery of that Coast It admits a question whether It would not be better under the disadvantage to make the voyage *immediately* than to *procrastinate*: for altho' their arrival on the Coast of America would not be at the most proper season for Discovery, there would be some advantage in the passage round Cape Horn, for the Lion's Voyage P. 4, says it is commonly found that the winds in the winter months are favourable to go round Cape Horn from Europe and unfavourable to come out of the South Seas, and by the Journal of Winds at the Falkland Islands this opinion seems to be confirmed as the Easterly winds seem, at least, as frequent as *Westerley* in June more frequent in July.

Admitting therefore that the Vessel came upon the Coast of America so late even as October we know by experience of the Prince of Wales and Princess Royal who remained on the Coast till after the middle of Novr., that it is practicable to remain on that Coast so late, but these Vessels were at Calamity Harbour in Lat. 54° 12' North and the present object of Discovery is *De Fouca's Strait* in 48 $\frac{1}{2}$  N. Lat., and if they can find a convenient harbour on that Coast to winter in, much progress may be made by land during the winter towards effecting a communication; and if they choose they can proceed to the Sandwich Islands & return at the early part of Spring.

But however much I may be an enemy to *Procrastination*, on any account, my opinion is that the present operation ought to be by *Hudson's Bay* in preference to Cape Horn.

The antient idea of a N. W. Passage was by the Hyperborean Sea on the N. of America, altho' I am very far from meaning any imputation on Capt. Cook's memory or abilities, I cannot admit of a *Pope* in Geography or Navigation.

It is alledged that the Esquimaux's extend to the most remote parts of the North Coasts of America. This the Language given in Cook's voyage proves incontrovertibly in western parts; and it is beyond dispute that the Esquimaux's are confined to the Sea Coasts & its vicinity; that they are not to be found where there is not a communication with the sea, is self evident from the nature of their Boats &c., & therefore the argument is almost demonstrative that there is a *Sea Communication, navigable* for their Boats, from *Labrador & Greenland* to the utmost extremity of *America & the Islands*.

Whether the Sea Communication is navigable for *more than Boats*, is a matter well worth examining.

Every modern discovery tends to corroborate the old reports, and in the earliest maps, long before Hudson's voyage, the *Bay* or *Sea* which bears *his name* is distinctly marked, tho' represented of much less dimension than it is.

In these maps a channel is represented as communicating the N. W. part of that Sea which corresponds to *Repulse Bay*, with the *Hyperborean Ocean*; and this sea communication is conformable to all the Indian Maps, which continue the Sea coast from *Churchill* in *Hudson's Bay* to the *Copper River*

Captain Meares, who was frozen up in Prince-William-Sound, remarks, that there are no *High Islands of Ice*, such as are found in *Cross-Sound* in a much lower Latitude. His inference is a natural one, that *Cross-Sound* is a Sea communication to a higher Latitude where these *High Islands of Ice* are found.

Capt. Portlock learnt from the Indians at his *Harbour*, to the *South-ward* of *Cross-Sound*, that there was a *Sea* beyond the mountains, which environ that Harbour, to the Eastward and the concurrent opinion, of all those who have visited the Coast for many degrees to the Southward, is that the whole is only a Range of Islands.

The opinion therefore of a N. W. Passage is strongly confirmed by the concurrence of the antient Reports, the Indian Maps, and the opinion of those who have recently visited the N. W. Coast. The only allegations to the contrary that Capt. Middleton represents *Repulse Bay* to be shut up, and that Capt. Cook & Capt. Clerk could not find a Passage by the *Strait of Anian* now called *Behring's Strait*.

Whoever looks into Capt. Middleton's Journal will, I am confident prefer the *positive testimony* of the Indian Maps, to his *conjecture*, and without controverting the Inference drawn from Capt. Cook's voyage. This can by no manner of argument prove the *Sea*, from Repulse Bay round to the Westward is *unnavigable*.

The many great Rivers of Asia disemboguing into that Sea which lyes on the North of It, bring down multitudes of Drifts, which will tend to congregate Ice. That Ice may be so accumulated between Asia and the opposite Coast (the extent Northward of both which is unknown) as to prevent a passage that way. But we have no Reports to indicate any considerable Rivers falling into the *Hyperborean Sea* from *Repulse Bay* to the meridian of Cross-Sound & both Mr. Hearne and the Canadian Traders represent the northern part of America as destitute of Timber.

The allegation concerning the *Bar of fixed Ice*, admitting this as a *Fact*, instead of an *Hypothesis*, as it is by some alledged to be, make nothing in favour of what it is brought to prove, for we know the sea is navigable at *Spitzbergen* to  $80^{\circ}$  N. Lat. and we have no reason to believe the Coast of the Hyperborean Sea, from Repulse Bay westward extends to  $70^{\circ}$  N. Lat. The Canadian Traders represent it to lye in  $68\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N. & Mr. Hearne only alledges it to be in  $72^{\circ}$  N. Lat. The Danes have a settlement in Davis's Strait in  $73^{\circ} 15'$  N. Lat., and there is no one circumstance, either in Mr. Hearne's Journal or in the Canadian Reports, to countenance an opinion that the Country on the west of the Northern part of the Hudson's Bay is uninhabited in winter; on the contrary Mr. Hearne set out in December from Churchill, where the climate seems to be more temperate than at Albany, altho' the latter be much further to the South, and this is a strong presumption of a Sea to the Northward.

But even supposing for a moment, what is not supported by any probable inference, that the navigation westward by the North of Hudson's Bay is impracticable, then we are to consider the matter as confined to an Examination by Land.

The Canadian Traders represent the distance from Quebec to the extremity of Lake Superior to be 750 Leagues or 2250 Geographical miles, & from thence to the Great Slave Lake 1000 leagues, or 3000 more, in the whole 1,750 Leagues or 5250 Geographical miles. Altho' this distance be admitted to be greatly exaggerated, still the estimation operates equally in favour of Hudson's Bay when compared with the distance from thence.

I will suppose the distance in a direct Line may be admitted in miles instead of Leagues, because I would give the fairest computation, this gives 1750 miles, thro' a country full of falls & rapids to impede the navigation.

We shall take it however only to the Island in the Arathapescow Lake at 1350 Geographic miles.

This distance from Hudson's Bay is only 600 miles, of which above 200 is the *Chesterfield Inlet* known to be navigable. The Canadian Trader represents the *Arathapescow* Lake to extend 100' to the Eastward of the Island, Mr. Hearne  $90'$ ; and a very considerable portion of the remaining 300 miles is occupied by the *Dobaunt* and other Lakes.

By Hudson's Bay the Discoverers would profit by the information of Mr. Turnor whom the Hudson's Bay Company have sent into those parts and from whose Astronomical abilities we may reasonably expect competent Information, whereas Peter Pond's allegation (as reported by Mr. Holland) "that the *Observations* of the Latitude in his *last Journey* agreed to a *second* with the positions in his *former map*" laid down by Estimation, betrays his *ignorance* or impudence and invalidates any Reports coming from him.

Supposing some person of knowledge and veracity to be sent with him it is probable Pond would *hide* that Person as is at present alledged of a person whose merits raised his Jealousy.

It is also to be considered that Pond is a native of the United States, and cannot therefore be deemed to be attached to this Country. He also pretends to the Sovereignty of the Lands adjacent to the Arathapeskow Lake, so that by encouraging him we may be fostering a viper in our bosom.

Should the Vessel be going to Hudson's Bay find no Sea communication practicable, she would return back to England by the beginning of October in time to proceed by Cape Horn, in prosecution of the Voyage on the west side, with the advantage of all that Local know'dge which their Observations and enquiries in Hudson's Bay had obtained.

I am given to understand that the Wages and Provisions for a Vessel of 120 tons & 30 men would not exceed £100 p. month, so that the expence of this attempt would be small.

The most eligible mode of promoting the enterprise would be by sending one vessel round Cape Horn without delay & another to Hudson's Bay; and the Hudson's Bay Company have expressed their readiness to co-operate with Government as the Esquimaux on the West side of the Bay, are on Friendly Footing with the Hudson's Bay Company's Agents, some of them might probably be induced to accompany the Adventurers in their Canoes. Mr. Hearne mentions that the Esquimaux winter at a *very great Lake*, called *Yathked*, situated to the S. W. of the *Chesterfield Inlet*, & it is not improbable they may be induced under the English Influence to accompany some of our People across those Lakes & by those Rivers which the Indian Maps represent as connecting Hudson's Bay & the Arathapescow Lake, which would obviate the objection made to the navigation from the Northern Parts of Hudson's Bay, as being a country destitute of Birch-wood for making *Bark Canoes*.

I cannot omit mentioning the propriety of having *Dogs* as a *watch*; for the Indians coming upon their enemies like a Tiger by stealth, The Alarm would be given and their Brutal Ferocity prevented.

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No. 5.—ALEXANDER DALRYMPLE TO EVAN NEPEAN.

(*Archives, series Q, vol. 49, p. 379.*)

DR. SIR,—My Friend Mr. Wegg the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, desires me to say that the Directors of that Company have unanimously determined to send their Sloop of about 90 Tons at the Company's Expence, if Government will send a proper Person in her to examine if any out-let can be found from Hudson's Bay to facilitate the communication with the West Coast. They are particularly solicitous that Government would send a proper Person in her that the Publick may be assured of every thing being done to effect the desired purpose.

They also wish that two proper Persons may be sent by Government to travel inland to ascertain the shortest communication by the Lakes & Rivers, and The Hudson's Bay Company will defray any reasonable Expence of that undertaking.

Dr. Sir,

Very truly yrs.,

A. DALRYMPLE.

No. 52 High Street, Marylebone,  
11th Feby., 1790,

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No. 6.—NOTE BY ALEXANDER DALRYMPLE.

(*Archives, series Q, vol. 49, p. 380.*)

DR. SIR,—I find you were mistaken concerning D. He is a Cumberland man and not an American! I thought I recollected Stockdale had so informed me, I therefore enquired of him & find they come from the same part of that Country.

I should think Capt. F. & D. would do well for the Land Expedition to Hudson's Bay & H. and his Brother from Canada, if that Plan is still followed; I mentioned Johnstone to Wegg in the manner we agreed and shall write to day.

Yrs. very truly,

A. DALRYMPLE.



## No. 7.—CAPTAIN HOLLAND'S PLAN TO EXPLORE FROM QUEBEC.

*(Archives, series Q, vol. 49, p. 381.)*

The following Plan strikes Mr. Holland as most Eligible for carrying into Effect the proposed Expedition for Discovering, and Exploring the Interior parts of the Northern and Western Quarter of America: Lying between Lake Aurabusquie, or Arathepeskow and the Line of Coast discovered by Capt. Cook:

First. That the Party to be employed should consist of not less than sixteen Persons, including a Surveyor and Assistant: Four Men having some knowledge of Boat Building; Eight Canadians, and Two Indians, for navigating Two, or sometimes Three Canoes, in order at Times, or as occasion may require to be enabled to Detach one, on any separate work which may present itself, such as exploring Rivers, sketching in the side of a Lake opposite to that taken by the Main Party and Chief Surveyor with whom Two Canoes must constantly be stationed for fear of accidents to either; and by keeping the Duplicates, Plans, observations, Journals &c. separated less injury would be sustained by the loss.

One of the great Obstacles to impede such an Expedition, would be the want of Provisions. It will therefore be necessary that a sufficient Quantity (for at least Three years consumption) should be deposited at Aurabusquie, to be conveyed thither from the King's Stores at Fort Michilimacinae, and as our Canoes, from the smallness of their size would not be able to contain the Quantity requisite, a Party, and Canoes, might be spared from the Fort, to aid in the transporting of it to Aurabusquie; from whence our chief operations ought to commence.

The Track from Lake Superior thither being known (and an accurate survey not the object in view) all that appears necessary between those Places is the ascertaining the Latitude and Longitude of some Principal Posts in our Route; and making such Sketches as may be useful to Persons who may follow. This I presume will be all that can be done in the course of the Ensuing Summer, supposing the Party to depart from Quebec about the end of May; at which Place, and at Montreal; a Month at least will be consumed in making the necessary Preparations Prior to our Departure. Little further during the winter season can be done at Aurabusquie, than exploring the Surrounding Country; making Observations; gaining Intelligence; and preparing for pursuing our Route in Spring; which I think should be by mounting the Slave River; thence North West coasting the Slave Lake (which by Information gained at Quebec from Persons who have been in that Country) is not less than Ten Degrees of Longitude; That it discharges itself into a River which takes its course N. West, and that its Distance from thence, to Prince Williams Sound or Cook's River, does not exceed Fifteen Degrees of Longitude.

After reaching the mouth of Cook's River, or whatever other River, we may fall in with on the outset, It will be advisable to stretch along the Coast, to the South East, to observe the course of all such rivers as may appear of importance; untill we shall be joined by the Party, intended to depart from Hudson's House, who I apprehend will follow the Coast to the North West, and explore the rivers in like manner untill our Junction.

## No. 8.—ESTIMATE OF EXPENSE NECESSARY TO EQUIP A PARTY ON AN EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH WEST PARTS OF AMERICA TO BE EMPLOYED IN EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY.

*(Archives, series, Q, vol. 49, p. 385.)*

	£	s
A Surveyor at Pr Diem.....		
One Assistant at 10s. Pr Diem makes Pr Annm.....	182	10
Four men to understand Boat Building 3s. pr Diem.....	219	
Eight Canadians for navigating & Transporting Canoes, Provisions &c.....	365	

	£
Two Indians at 2s. Pr Diem.....	73
Sixteen Rations of Provisions for the above Party. The Ration consisting of: 16 ounces of Bread, 1 lb. of meat, 1 Pint of Rum.....	
Necessary Disbursements not included in the above.....	
Astronomical and other Instruments.....	150
Indian Trinkets.....	150
Canoes, Oil Cloths, Tackling &c.....	40
Arms, Ammunition, Hatchets, Nap Sacks, &c.....	

No. 9.—LIST OF INSTRUMENTS, &c.

(*Archives, series Q, vol. 49, p. 386.*)

List of Instruments necessary for making Astronomical and other Observations by the party intended to cross from Canada to the Pacific Ocean. Prepared by Mr. Holland,

February, 1790.

A Transit Instrument.

A Time Piece.

Telescopes { A Refractor } of sufficient power to observe the Eclipses  
                  { A Reflector } of Jupiter Sattelites.

A Thermometer graduated considerably below the Freezing Point.

A Barometer constructed for measuring Heights.

A Theodolite, Azimuth and Hadley.

No. 10.—DALRYMPLE TO RIGHT HON. W. W. GRENVILLE.

(*Archives series Q, vol. 49, p. 388.*)

SIR,—I take the liberty of troubling you, to express how much depends on your speedy determination on the propositions of The Hudson's Bay Company, the Season drawing near for the departure of their Ships—At the same time that I wish to interest you in my own behalf, if you think my pretensions in the enclosed letter to the Court of Directors of the East India Company is founded on Justice.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

A. DALRYMPLE,

High Street, Marylebone,  
16th April, 1790.

No. 11.— A. DALRYMPLE TO EVAN NEPEAN.

(*Archives, series Q, vol. 49, p. 389.*)

No. 52 HIGH STREET,

MARYLEBONE, 1st June, 1790.

DR. SIR,—I shall be very much obliged to you if you will be so good to use your influence with Capt. Holland to obtain any Latitudes (and also Longitudes if he has any) of Lake Superior.

I recollect to have heard that he had come down the Falls of St. Mary from Lake Superior to Lake Huron so that he must have been in these parts & the character he bears makes me conclude he could not have been there without making observations. I have only one position on Lake Superior from the Hudson's Bay Company, & that does not agree with D'Anville.

Yrs. truly,

A. DALRYMPLE.

## No. 12.—A. DALRYMPLE TO EVAN NEPEAN.

*(Archives, series Q, vol. 49, p. 390.)*

7th July, 1790.

DR. SIS,—I have not been able to get down to Whitehall since I had your note. My map is *not finished* because I *have not received* the *Latitudes &c.* of Lake Superior, you promised to ask of Mr. Holland. I think everything else is prepared. If you wish to have a *Proof* of what is done, viz. the *West Coast of Hudson's Bay* without any of *Peter Ponds* or the *Canadian Parts* I will bring it to-morrow as I shall be your way. I suppose you have heard that Capt. Douglas is gone again from China to the N. W. Coast of America under *American* colours.

I was yesterday told by Mr. Raikes that the King of Sweden had made good his Landing within a small distance of Petersburg (I think 25 miles) and had repelled the Russian Troops. But I suppose this is not news to you.

Yours truly,

A. DALRYMPLE.

## No. 13.—CAPTAIN HOLLAND TO EVAN NEPEAN.

*(Archives series, Q, vol. 49, p. 391.)*

LONDON, July 25th, 1790.

SIR,—Presuming from the advanced state of the season, that little more can be done this year towards prosecuting the intended exploration of the Interior parts of the North West of America; than in making such arrangements at Quebec during the winter as will enable us to leave that place the Instant the Ice breaks up in Spring; to effect which I conceive it of material consequence to have the necessary Instruments and other articles to be procured in this Country shipped this season for Canada, for the following reasons, That after Sunday next the 1st of August the direct communication by shipping to Quebec closes till next Spring; when from numberless impediments their arrival is frequently retarded till near the commencement of June at which time we should be near Michilimacinak. Submitting the above with all deference to your superior judgement.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your most devoted, most obedient  
and most humble servant,

JN. F. DE B. HOLLAND.

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