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Journal in the Form of a Letter Covering the Period from the 20th of July 1738, When I Left Michilimackinac, to May, 1739, Sent to the Marquis de Beauharnois

by Pierre Gaultier de Varennes de la Vérendrye

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Journal en forme de Letre, depuis le 20 de juillét 1738. de mon Despard de michilimakina jusqu'en may 1739. Envoyé à Monsieur le Marquis de Beauharnois, Commandeur des ordres militaire de S^t Louis, Gouverneur et Lieutenant Général de toute la Nouvelle-France terres et païs de la Louisiane, par son très humble serviteur Lauerendrye, Lieutenant d'une Compagnie du Destachement de la marine En Canada, chargé de ses ordres pour la Découverte de la mer d'oüést.

J'eus l'honneur Monsieur L'année dernière de vous marquér mon Despard de michilimakina, en six Canots, vingt-deux hommes Esquipées d'une manière à pouvoir faire grande diligence, je me rendis au païs plats le premier d'aoust le matin, le dousième 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,—jauois déja sçû qu'il estoient tous partis pour aller chez les Sioux, je fis assemblér ce qu'il y auoit

Journal in the form of a letter covering the period from the 20th of July 1738, when I left Michilimackinac, to May, 1739, sent to the Marquis de Beauharnois.

I had the honour, Monsieur, last year to inform you of my departure from Michilimackinac with six canoes carrying twenty-two men, equipped in such a way as to travel fast. I arrived at the flat country on the first of August in the morning, twelve days after setting out, and stopped there about three hours to speak to the savages in your name. I found only the chief of Kaministikwia and some old men, very few young men. I had previously learnt that they had all left to go to the Sioux country. I got together, however, what men there were, and made them a present of some

¹ The journal covering the period from August 1737 to July 1738 is missing.

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 faché 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

tobacco and corn, which they think more of than they do of the goods that are given to them at a low price.

I began my speech by blaming them for having gone to war contrary to the promise they had made last year, when I was passing their way, that they would not undertake anything of the kind till my return. I was now bringing them, I said, a message from you to the effect that, for certain reasons, you did not want war made at present, but desired that all should remain peacefully on their lands; if you had need of their services you would let them know. I then gave them some general news regarding which they are very curious.

The chief at once replied: 'My Father, do not be angry with us. It was against our will that war parties were raised. It was the Duck (Canard, Indian name for M. de la Plante) who wanted it really, speaking in the name of our Father and handing out fine presents. Those of us whom you see here refused to listen to him, as we were awaiting your return.

¹ Probably Clément Leriger, Sieur de la Plante.

l'escouter, atendant ton retour, nous ne sommes pas des enfans pour auoir deux paroles, tu à été longtemps auec 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'escoutér par la suite que des chefs chargés de vos ordres, de bien chasser pour fournir le besoin à leurs famille, que par vôtre 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 publiér vos ordres et laissé copie aux françois qui gardoit le fort; Concernant ce poste et de tekamamihoüenne pour estre remis à Mr de Lamarque qui y deuoit arriver au premiér jour, je partis Le 6. au matin, me rendis au Lac de tekamamihouenne, Le 22 du present mois, je trouuée vn chef de guerre, Monsony, auec une petite bande

We are not children, what we say we mean. You have been a long time with us, and ought to know us well: We have always been attached to our Father and always shall be.'

I encouraged them in these good sentiments, advising them to listen in future to such chiefs only as had orders from you; to be active in hunting so as to be able to provide for supplying the necessities of their families, by means of the goods which, through your kindness, the French would bring within their reach on their own lands. I bade them adieu, as the weather was fine and I wanted to take advantage of it for the rest of the day.

On the 5th I arrived at Kaministikwia. I published your orders—leaving a copy with the Frenchmen who were guarding the fort—concerning this fort and that of Tecamamiouen, the written copy to be handed to M. de Lamarque who was expected to arrive immediately. I left on the 6th in the morning and went to lake Tecamamiouen.

On the 22nd of the present month I found a Monsoni
¹ Fort St. Pierre.

qui m'attendoit 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 responces, 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 aporter leurs besoin, trouvasse toujour 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 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 aporté et le recit que les vieux vient de me faire, tant de nôtre père, que de tout ce qu'il à veü là-bas, tu vas trouuer bien du monde à ton fort du lac des bois, tous les chefs t'y atende, en finissant de leurs

war chief with a small band near to the little narrows in that lake. They begged me to camp early so as to give them the news. I consented to do so and made them a present from you, after which I read the replies which you had been so good as to make to their message, to the effect that they were to keep quiet for the present, to guard their lands well, in order that the French who came from so far to bring them things that they wanted might always find the road open.

The chief replied to me: 'I thank you, my Father, for having had pity on us. I shall carry the news to all our people who are in the meadows gathering the wild oats. I shall make them joyful when I tell them of your return and of the will of our Father as expressed in the words you have brought us, also of the account the old man has just given me, not only of our Father but of all that he saw down there. You will find many people at your fort of the Lake of the Woods; all the chiefs are waiting for you.'

parler, je leurs recommandé déstre toujours bien fidel aux françois, ne point oublier vostre parole bien chasser pour contenter les trésteurs, il me répondit auéc de grande acclamations de reconnoisance, en massurant ne jamais oublier tout ce que je luy auois dit, je l'encouragé de mon mieux me rendis au fort St-Charles, lac des bois. le 31. je n'y trouuée point LaColle chef des Monsony, je l'envoyés auertir, voulant parler à [tous] Les chefs ensemble, je diferés a leurs parlér 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 responces 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,

In concluding my speech to them I urged them to be always faithful to the French, and not to forget their instructions, also to hunt well so as to satisfy the traders. He replied with strong expressions of gratitude, assuring me that he would never forget what I had said to him. I did my best to encourage him.

On the 31st I arrived at fort St. Charles, Lake of the Woods. I did not find La Colle, the Monsoni chief, there, so I sent to notify him. As I wished to speak to [all] the chiefs together I deferred doing so till the 3rd of September, when I assembled all the principal ones in my room.

I made a present in your name to each of the three chiefs, La Colle, Lamicoine 1 and Lechenaiîl, of whom I have spoken several times in previous memoirs. I commenced by the replies you had been so good as to make to their message, dwelling strongly upon each point, in order to make them understand the kindly feeling you had for them, and that

que tout ce que [vous] leurs permetiés leurs estoit très assuré, autant que de leurs costé ils seroient obéissants a uostre paroles, je sçauois que le vieux que jauois mené auéc moy chargé de leurs paroles quoique les mains vide, leurs auoit fait vn fidèle raport des bontés que [vous] auiés eu de luy, il ne cessoit de faire vostre Eloge, qu'ils auoient vn bon père qu'il faloit menagér en 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 vengence, ce qu'il n'auoit 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 enfants obéissants, accordoit à vostre uolonté, garderoit Leurs terres, comme vous leur ordoniés, esperant toujours que vous tireriés vengence par la suite du malheureux coup que Les Sioux

whatever you promised them was sure, so long as they on their side were obedient to your words. I knew that the old man whom I had taken with me to carry their message, though with empty hands, had made them a faithful report of your kindness to him. In fact he never ceased praising you, saying that they had a good Father whose favour they should seek to retain by obedience.

La Colle replied for all the rest, saying that he did not cease to weep for my son and all the Frenchmen [who had been murdered], that the lake was still red with their blood, which cried for vengeance, a vengeance that he had never been able to wreak as he would have wished. However, it was not for them, persons without intelligence, to demand your reasons for wishing them to keep quiet for the present. They were obedient children, and yielded to your will; they would keep on their own lands as you had directed, still hoping that you would later take vengeance for the wretched deed that the Sioux had wrought on their

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 enfants, qu'ils nous seroit toujours fidèles, vous leur demandiés de garder leurs terres, céstoit Leurs interest, Lamicoine me fit de grands remerciments du bon soin que j'avois eu de son frère, c'est du vieux que j'avois menés auec moi qu'il auoit apreendés de ne le plus reuoir, me priant de vous assurer de sa reconnoissance, qu'il noubliroit de sa vie le bien que vous aviés fait à son frère, qu'il seroit luy et les siens toujours fort atachés aux françois, que mon retour auoit aporté la joye à tout que Leur joye ne seroit pas longue selon ce que son frere luy auoit dit que j'allois iuerner bien loing, qu'il me prioit de ne les point abandonner, si je voulois m'esloigner d'eux de leurs laisser vn de mes enfants, qu'il

[his people's] soil. Nevertheless it rested with you to chastise or to pardon, and he thanked you in the name of all, and begged you to recognize them as your true children, and that they would always be faithful to us. You had asked them to guard their lands; it was to their interest to do so.

Lamicoine thanked me earnestly for the good care I had taken of his brother, that is to say of the old man that I had taken with me, whom he feared he should never see again. He begged me to assure you of his gratitude, and say that, as long as he lived, he would never forget the kindness you had shown to his brother, and that he and his would always be attached to the French. My return, he said, had brought joy to every one, but their joy would not be of long duration, according to what his brother had said, namely that I was going to winter far away from them. He begged me not to abandon them, but, if I was bent on going away, to leave them one of my sons. He would like to have it in

voudroit estre en pouuoir de me suivre qui le feroit d'un grand cœur, que son frère et son neveu qui s'atendoit à me suivre tiendroit 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 vôtre volonté, je voulois augmentér le nombre de uos enfants, 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 remerciments, 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 auec moy, je differé a partir jusques aux 11 de septembre, attendant Mr de Lamarque à qui j'aouis promis de ne point presér ma marche 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

his power to follow me, which he would do most cheerfully; his brother, however, and his nephew, who expected to follow me, would take his place.

I encouraged them to keep their word and to be diligent in hunting in order to provide for the wants of their families, adding that if I was going farther it was in accordance with your wish: I wanted to increase the number of your children, and, in my stead, I was leaving my eldest son, who had been adopted by their tribes and would announce to them your word. The council concluded with great thanksgivings.

I then thought of the arrangements for my departure. I caused my son to be acknowledged as commandant in my absence, and published an order detaching the other two to accompany me. I delayed leaving until the 11th of September, awaiting M. de Lamarque, to whom I had promised not to hurry my journey, so as to give him a chance of catching up to me, he having promised at Michilimackinac to make haste with the object of accompanying me in the autumn

mantannes que si deuant on apeloit ouachipouanne selon les monsony, 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 Louuiere commis pour ces Messieurs Destachés cinq de ses hommes pour venir auec moy, comme j'éstois convenu, je lessois à Mr de Louuière 9 hommes, je me rendis à la fourche des assiliboiles Le 24. ou je trouvés dix cabanes de Crix deux chefs de guerre, qui m'atendoit avec bien des viandes ayant été averty que je venois, il me

in my expedition for the discovery of the Mandan, who formerly were called the Ouachipouennes according to the Monsoni Indians, and Courtchouattes according to the Cree; Mandan is the proper name of the tribe.

Seeing that the 10th of the month had come, and that he [M. de Lamarque] had not arrived, everything being in good order in the fort and everything ready for my departure, I left on the 11th as I have already mentioned, hoping that he would overtake me soon enough to come with me.

I reached fort Maurepas on the 22nd, where I held a military inspection, published your orders concerning the said fort, and gave a copy of them to M. de Louvière, agent for those gentlemen. I then detached five of his men to come with me, as I had arranged, and left nine with M. de Louvière.

I proceeded to the fork of the Assiniboine and, reaching there on the 24th, I found ten cabins of Cree, including two war chiefs, awaiting me with a large quantity of meat, they

¹ Spelt Mantannes in the French text.

² Spelt Koüathéattes in earlier documents.

³ Louis D'Amours de Louvière—of the same family as Louis Mathieu d'Amours de Clignancourt (1698-1755).

priere de leur accorder un séjour pour avoir le plaisir de nous voir et nous donner a mangér, je leurs acordé estant bien aise de leur parlér, je fis venir les deux chefs a ma tante, je sauois qu'il aloit tout les ans aux Englois, que l'on m'auoit raporté qu'il y en auoit un qui auoit receu vn collier des Englois auec un present pour jouer un mauvais tour aux françois, je dis a celuy 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 Englois il y a plus de six ans, jay envoyés à la vérité ces dernières année que les françois nous a abandonnés il nous faloit avoir nos besoins, demande a ceux qui ont esté pour moy que voîla icy sil ont entendue parlér de quelque chose d'aprochant,

having been notified of my coming. They begged me to stay with them for a while, so that they might have the pleasure of seeing and entertaining us. I agreed to do so, being glad of a chance of talking to them.

I got the two chiefs to come to my tent. I knew that they went every year to the English post, and that one of them, according to a report made to me, had received a collar from the English together with a present as an inducement to do some bad turn to the French. I told the one who had been accused all that had been said to me about him. I had the honour to write you last year from Michilimackinac an account of the rumours that were current on this subject.

He replied: 'My Father, I know that there are a lot of envious people who talk against me. I have not been to the English for the last six years, but in recent years when the French abandoned us I did send there: we had to have our needs supplied. Ask those who went there for me, and who are here now, if they ever heard anything like that spoken of.

¹ York Factory.

je te peus assurer que l'Englois 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 fils 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 à pitié de nous en nous envoyant des françois sur nos terres pour nous aporter 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

I assure you that the Englishman is quiet and does not talk of the Frenchman. They are liars who have set those stories afloat. You will know the truth of the matter later. As long as the Frenchman remains in our lands we promise you not to go elsewhere.'

I made them a little present to encourage them to keep their promises, and went over what I had said to the others both in regard to your orders and to general news. Our old man then gave them a great account of his journey which pleased them exceedingly.

The chief whom I had accused said to me: 'My Father, we thank you for having spoken well in our behalf down there to our Father. We know to-day that he has pity on us in sending Frenchmen into our country to bring us the things we need. We will keep quiet as he desires, and let the Sioux do the same. Our heart is still sore on account of your son, who was the first to come and build a fort on our

laymions beaucoup, jay 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 alé, 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 nauoit jamais ueü de françois, et ne le pouroit connoitre, je luy respondis que je voulois alér dans l'otonne chez cette nations de blancs, dont 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 uoulois

land; we loved him deeply. I have already been once at war to avenge him. I only destroyed ten cabins, which is not enough to content us; but now our Father orders us to keep quiet and we shall do so.'

He asked me then where I was thinking of going, that the river of the Assiniboin 1 was very low and that we ran a great risk of ruining our canoes; moreover that we were going among people who did not know how to kill beaver, and whose only clothing was buffalo skin, a thing we did not require. They were people without intelligence, who had never seen the French and would not be able to make anything of them.

I replied that I wanted to go in the autumn and visit that tribe of whites that I had heard so much about; that I would go up the river as far as I could in order to put it in my power to pursue my journey according to your orders,

¹ Assiniboine. For variants of the name, see Coues' note, *New Light on the Early History of the Greater North-west*, i. 45. It was variously known at different periods as Stone Indian river, Red river, Rivière Saint Charles. The present name has been translated 'River of the Stony Sioux.' The river rises in Saskatchewan, and after a course of 450 miles joins the Red river at Winnipeg.

augmenter le nombre de uos enfants, aprendre a chasser aux assiliboiles 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 auec 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 Englois, il me dit qu'il leurs parleroit de son mieux, qu'il esperoit que je serois content, je trouvée les eaux fort basses l'estée s'est passer sans pluye, la rivière uient de l'ouest, serpente, beaucoup large et grand

and that I wanted to increase the number of your children, teach the Assiniboin to hunt, and put some intelligence into them; and that next year I would take another direction.

'You are running a great risk, my Father,' he said, 'of your canoes leaving there empty. It is true the Assiniboin are a numerous people, but they do not know how to hunt beaver; I hope you will be able to sharpen their wits.'

I left on the 26th. My old man asked to be allowed to remain a few days with the Cree who were urgently asking him to do so, saying that he would overtake me in a short time. As he had his own canoe I readily consented, and told him to encourage those people to be active in hunting, to carry provisions to the French fort, and to keep the promise he had given me not to go to the English. He assured me he would speak to them to the best of his ability and hoped I would be satisfied.

I found the water very low, as there had been no rain all the summer. The river comes from the west, winds a great courant beacoup de batures elle est bordée d'un beau bois sur cès 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 auec le monde inutile dans les canots, Le chemin est bien plus cour par les prairies, l'on Coupe plusieurs pointes de la riuière 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 rencontrér des assiliboilles qui auoit été auerty que je montois dans leurs rivière venoit au deuant de moy, je poursuivy 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 pouuois monter plus loin la rivière trop basse que mes canots ne pouuoit passér le bois que pour la portée de

deal, is wide, has a strong current and many shallows. There are fine trees along the banks, and behind these a boundless stretch of prairie in which are multitudes of buffalo and deer.

I determined to go by land across the prairie, and let the men I did not require follow in the canoes. The road is much shorter by the prairie, as you cut off several bends of the river and keep a straight road. Game is to be found along the river in great abundance. I did not walk far before meeting some Assiniboin who, having been notified that I was coming up the river, came to meet me. I pursued my way, however, deferring to speak to them till I should be on their land. The band increased in numbers day by day. I marched steadily for six days.

On the evening of October 2 the savages notified me that I could not go any higher up the river on account of the lowness of the water, that my canoes could not pass the wood; and that if it was a question of being well situated for reaching everybody, there was no better place than the

tout le monde estant au portage qui va au Lac des prairies car c'est le chemin des assiliboilles pour allér aux Englois, tu arestera tout le monde estant icy, tu veux alér ché les mantannes te voila à la portée du chemin, je consulté sur ce que nous devions 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 uoyant que nous ne pouuions passer outre et que nous courions grand risque de mettre nos Canots hors détat de pouvoir sortir estant dans vn endroit sans ressourse dans l'endroit pour les acommoder, n'ayant ny gomme ny rasinnes, qu'il estoit plus a propos de rester dans un endroit ou il y avoit beau a bastir, et qui estoit le chemin pour aler aux Englois, que nous avions lieu d'esperér bien du monde, et tous gens qui certainement ne

portage which leads to the Lake of the Prairies, for that is the road by which the Assiniboin go to the English, and being there [they said] you will stop every one on the way; and, if you wish to go to the Mandan, you are close to the road.

I held a consultation as to what we should do, our reckoning being that we were sixty leagues from the fork by water and thirty-five or forty by land across the prairies. The general opinion was, seeing that we could not go any further, and that we ran great risk of so injuring our canoes that we should not be able to get them out, the place in which we were being one in which neither gum nor resin was to be had for mending them, that the best thing to do was to stay there, as there were good facilities for building, as it was the road to the English posts, and as we had reason to expect a great many people to pass that way, and all of them people who certainly do not go to fort Maurepas.

¹ Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis. The portage was used throughout the period of the fur trade, English as well as French, as a carrying-place from the Assiniboine to Lake Manitoba. It was known as Meadow portage, Prairie portage, and Plain portage, but the old French name survives to the present day as Portage la Prairie.

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 champ, jesperois toujours que Mr de lamarque me viendroit joindre, si jeusse monté plus haut il n'auroit péu 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 remerciment, en promettant des merveilles, je leurs

On the morning of the 3rd I determined to choose a good spot for building a fort, which I caused to be commenced at once. I was still hoping that M. de Lamarque would come and join me. Had I gone further up the river he could not have found me.

While the men were building as hard as they could I spoke to the Assiniboin, assembling them all near my tent. I made them a present from you of powder, ball, tobacco, axes, knives, chisels, awls, these all being things which they value highly, owing to their lack of everything. They received me with much ceremony, shedding many tears in testimony of their joy. For their trouble I received them into the number of your children, fully instructing them afterwards as to your orders, which I repeated several times so that they might fully grasp them. They seemed greatly pleased, thanked me earnestly, and promised to do wonders.

¹ Fort la Reine, as it was afterward called by La Vérendrye, in honour of the French Queen, wife of Louis XV. It stood on the north bank of the river on or near the site of the present town of Portage la Prairie. Both the North West Company and Hudson's Bay Company had trading establishments at the portage, dating from about 1794.

recommendés de faire savoir 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 devoit conoitre la bonté que uous auiés pour eux et leur enuoyant leurs besoins de si loing, que leurs parent, le vieux que j'auois menés auec moy leurs pouuoit dire ce qui en estoit ariuée a nous du jour, il nespargnoit rien a la verité pour les bien instruire et leurs aprendre ce qui en est d'avoir a faire aux françois, tout finit par des grands pleurs et remerciments, quelques jours apres je m'assuré d'un guide que je payé auec dautres pour macompagner a ma descouuerte et me porter de lequipage, le neuf au soir Mr de Lamarque auec le Sr Nolant son frere, huit hommes en deux canots ariuerent à nous, ce qui me fit beaucoup de plaisir, j'en temoignée ma

I asked them to let the Assiniboin of the Red river know that they had Frenchmen among them, and that the French would never abandon them as long as they acted sensibly; they ought to recognize, I said, our kindness towards them in sending them useful things from so great a distance; their relative, the old man I had brought with me, could tell them right off all that had happened to us.

The old man then spoke and certainly he left nothing unsaid that could instruct them, or help them to understand what it is to have to do with Frenchmen. The whole was brought to a conclusion with copious tears and thanksgivings.

A few days later I secured a guide, whom I paid with the rest to accompany me on my journey of discovery and help in carrying the baggage.

On the 9th, in the evening, M. de Lamarque with the Sieur Nolan, his brother, and eight men in two canoes joined us, which caused me great pleasure. I testified my

¹ Nicolas Augustin Nolan, born 1705, son of Jean-Baptiste Nolan, the Montreal merchant. For his brother Lamarque, see footnote, p. 261.

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 auec deux tresteurs, ayant amené tout ce qu'il y auoit [de] canots nesperant pas pour cela les pouvoir chercher [charger?] nayant 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 descouverte qu'il m'en amennoit et cela sans luy faire de tord n'ayant pas besoin de son monde pendant le cour de lyuér. Je le remercié en luy disant que sil ne gagnait [joignait] dans notre Des Cou[verte] il auroit 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 luymesme, sans

gratitude to M. de Lamarque for the pains he had taken to bring us reinforcements, and enquired of him whether he had left many people at fort St. Charles on the Lake of the Woods, and also how many he had left at fort Maurepas.

He answered that he had left eight men at the first place, with two traders, having brought away all the canoes there were; not that he hoped to be able to load them all, not having been able to bring any large amount of merchandise. As he had promised to join me he wanted to keep his word. He knew I needed men for my exploration, and he brought some accordingly, without disadvantage to himself as he did not require his men in the winter.

I thanked him and observed that if he did not make any profit out of our exploration he would at least save the expenses of himself and his men till their return. He said that he wanted to share expenses. I said no, that could not be; it was enough for him to furnish his men and himself

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 logér tout [son] monde aux 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 Louuière à 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 génerale, pour passer tout le monde en reueü et détachée ce qu'il me

without being under the necessity of bearing part of the expense, for which I had made special provision. At his request I gave him a place in my fort on which to erect a house for himself and his people when we should get back from our journey.

On the 15th of the month, the fort and the houses being completed, I began to think of the preparations for our departure. M. de Lamarque told me that he had brought M. de Louvière to the fork with two canoes to build a fort there for the convenience of people on the Red river. I thought that was all right provided the savages are notified of it.

On the 16th I beat the general in order to have a review

¹ This is what was afterward known as fort Rouge, and appears under that name on the 'Carte des découvertes de la Verenderye.' On the 1750 map it is marked 'Ancien Fort.' On the other hand, another map of 1750, described in the Notes on Maps, in Statutes, Documents and Papers bearing on the Discussion respecting the Northern and Western Boundaries of Ontario, p. 136q, is said to show fort Rouge. In the 'Map showing the forts established by de Laverendrye 1731–1739,' in Kingsford's History of Canada, iii. 369, fort Rouge is incorrectly shown at the mouth of Red river. When Alexander Henry was at the mouth of the Assiniboine in August 1800, he noted in his journal: 'In French times there was a trading establishment on this spot, traces of which are still to be seen where the chimneys and cellars stood.' See Dr. Coues' note, pp. 43–44, New Light, etc.; also George Bryce's Five Forts of Winnipeg, in R.S.C. Trans. 1885. The name survives in one of the residential districts of Winnipeg.

faloit de monde pour ma descouverte, apres la reueü des armes je fis publier uos 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 le 18, leurs fis donner une 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 soixante 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 portér pour le present qu'une femme de notre guide me portoit et tout ce qui m'estoit utile pour mon particulier mon domestique et mon esclave le portoit, cela distribué, je fis

of our whole company, and select those whom I required for my expedition. After the examination of arms I caused your orders regarding the post to be published, and then detached twenty men, ten belonging to M. de Lamarque and ten of my own, whom I notified to hold themselves in readiness for the 18th.

I gave to each man one pound of powder, twenty bullets, shoes, an axe, a kettle for use on the way. To each man, French and Indian, I gave a four-pound bag of powder, sixty bullets, two fathoms of tobacco, together with some small articles more for actual needs than for other purposes, such as awls, gun-flints, gun-screws and firesteels. I put into a leather bag what I wanted to take with us for the present, which a wife of our guide carried; while all that was for my own personal use my servant and my slave carried.

When all the stuff was distributed, I caused Sans-

¹ Tobacco twisted in the form of a rope was used both by the French fur-traders and by the traders of the Hudson's Bay and North West Companies. See Bain's note, Henry's *Travels and Adventures*, p. 321. Also note herein, p. 99; and Introduction, p. 39, as to use of Brazil tobacco.

receuoir Sanschagrin homme d'esprit sage et prudent qui me fait la fonction de sergent, commandant à mon absence menant mes deux enfants auec 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 auoit a faire pendant mon absence, le 18 tout étant en bon ordre dans le fort, je fis partir tout notre monde avec ordre dalér camper proche et partis ensuite avec Mr. delamarque sur le midy, en encouragent les sauvages que je lessois aux fort de chasser aux beuf le castor nestant 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 depard,

chagrin, an intelligent, discreet and prudent man who fills the position of sergeant, to be received as commandant in my absence, taking my two sons with me and leaving two soldiers and ten hired men for the protection of the fort. After that I gave him in writing orders and instructions as to everything he had to do in my absence.

On the 18th, everything being in good shape in the fort, I started all our people on the march with orders to camp somewhere near, and about noon I myself left with M. de Lamarque, after encouraging the savages whom I left at the fort to hunt buffalo, beaver being not yet in season, in order to supply the French with food. Our little band consisted of 52 persons, twenty hired men, all good men, M. de Lamarque, his brother, my two sons, my servant and a slave, the rest being savages.

¹ Alexis Sejourné *dit* Sanschagrin appears as a marriage witness at Michilimackinac in 1747, 1750, 1758, 1760, and 1762. He was sergeant of the troops at Michilimackinac, to the close of the French period, and was still there in 1765. His daughter was baptized there in 1749, by Père du Jaunay, Le Gardeur de Saint-Pierre being godfather.

un vilage de quarante cabannes assiliboilles, nous joignirent a dessein de me parlér. Le chef me demanda de vouloir bien luy acordér la journée pour avoir le plaisir de nous voir et nous donner a mangér, je lui acordée à la solicitation 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 reconnoissance, en promettant bien des merueilles, qu'il aloit porter des uiures aux françois et chasseroit de leur mieux, enfin d'avoir leurs besoins. Le 21 nous continuames nostre route jusqua la premiere montagne eloignée de nostre fort de vingt six lieues toujours au sud quard de sud ouest de la premiere montagne a la seconde à oüést quard nor oüést 24 lieuës, de la pointe de la seconde montagne, a alér chez les mantannes en droiture il faut tenir le sud oüést quard oüést, il sen faloit de

On the third day after our departure an Assiniboin village of forty lodges joined us with the object of speaking to me. The chief asked me to be good enough to give him a day that he might have the pleasure of seeing and entertaining us. At the solicitation of our guide I consented. I made the chief a little present of powder and told him all that I had told the others. He expressed much gratitude. promising to do wonderful things, that they would carry provisions to the French and hunt their very best, in order to be able to get the things they required. On the 21st we continued our journey as far as the first mountain, distant from our fort twenty-six leagues, the general direction being south one point west; from the first mountain to the second is west one point north, 24 leagues; and from the point of the second mountain to go in a straight line to the Mandan you have to keep south-west one point west.¹

¹ In a paper on 'The Explorations of Verendrye and his Sons,' in the *Proceedings of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association*, vol. i. p. 49, Mr. Warren Upham says: 'The route I think to have been first due south about fifty miles, to make the ascent up the Pembina Mountain in the American Journeys—www.americanjourneys.org

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 oüést sud oüést, que nostre guide nous a bien augmenté de plus de cinquante a soixante lieues, et nombre de sejour auxquel il nous faloit consentir malgré nous, nous fesant paser 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

We were far, however, from being able to follow a straight road, for every two leagues we made in a straight line we travelled three or four. From our fort it may be 120 leagues west-south-west, which our guide increased by fifty or sixty. He also made us stop at a great many places much against our will, thus keeping us at a standstill during the best of the autumn weather.

We spent forty-six days covering a distance which we might easily have covered in sixteen, or twenty at the most. There was nothing for it but to have patience, as nothing that

vicinity of Thornhill, and thence west and west-south-west about seventy miles to the south-east point of the base of Turtle Mountain (called "the second mountain"). Thence the distance in a straight course south-south-west to the Missouri river at Bismarck and Mandan, where the Mandan and Hidatsa villages then were, is a hundred and fifty miles. It could be traversed by two hundred miles of travel, requiring no more than two or three weeks with reasonable progress.' There can be very little doubt that, from the Assiniboine to Turtle Mountain, La Vérendrye followed a recognized Indian trail. Between there and the Missouri his course was diverted to an Assiniboin village. David Thompson, Alexander Henry, F. A. Larocque, Charles Mackenzie, and others who subsequently travelled from the Assiniboin trading posts to the Missouri villages, between 1793 and 1806, followed substantially the same route. George Bryce, referring to this period, says: 'The Mandans themselves journeyed north to the Assiniboine and carried Indian corn, which they grew, to Rupert's Land to exchange for merchandise'; and he adds, 'the Mandan trail can still be pointed out in Manitoba' (Remarkable History of the Hudson's Bay Company, p. 324). See account of Thompson's journey to the Mandan in 1797, and his route from the Missouri to Stone Indian River House on the Assiniboine (Boundaries of Ontario, p. 174; and Thompson's Narrative (Champlain Society).

ce que je pouuois 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 auoit esté découvrir et nous auoit amenés huit hommes, que les Chefs du vilage m'envoyoit pour me prier de les allér joindre qu'il estoit tous dans le sentiment de macompagnér 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 alér nous y ariuames le 18e de novembre, sur l'aprés midi, il estoit venu nombre de couriés au devant de nous, nous [y] fumes receu avec grande joye l'on nous conduisit, M. de lamarque, son frere, et mes enfants dans une cabane d'un jeune Chef ou tout estoit prèst pour nous receuoir, 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 jestois,

I could say to the guide to make him hasten had any effect. To crown our luck he took us twenty-two leagues out of our way to visit a village of a hundred and two lodges that he had gone to discover, bringing us eight men whom the chiefs of the village were sending to beg me to go and join them, as they were all disposed to accompany me to the country of the Mandan. The Sioux, they said, often went in that direction and I needed an escort.

We had to make up our minds to go, and we reached the place on the 18th of November in the afternoon. A number of couriers had come to meet us. Our arrival was hailed with great joy, and we were conducted, M. de Lamarque, his brother and my sons with myself, into the dwelling of a young chief, where everything was ready for our reception. They gave us and all our men, who did not lack appetite, very good cheer.

On the 19th I had the chiefs and principal men of the village assembled in the lodge I was occupying, and je leur donée un present de uostre part en poudre, balles, couteaux et tabac, en leurs disant que je les recevois au nombre de vos enfants, que s'il auoit de l'esprit que vous leurs prometiés de ne les point abandonnér 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 enfants puisse vivre tranquile, dont jaugmentois le nombre tous les jours je leurs fis le récit que javois fait a tous les autres, ce fut grand remerciment par bien de pleurs et ceremonie, en passant leurs mains sur ma teste me prenant à vôtre lieu et place [pour] leur père et nos françois pour frere, en passant les mains sur la teste a tous en pleurant, cette

made them a present from you of powder, ball, knives and tobacco, telling them that I received them into the number of your children, and that, if they acted sensibly, you promised not to abandon them. The French, I said, were now established on their lands, and would supply their needs, only they would have to hunt for beaver and look well after their lands; adding that you did not want any war at present, desiring rather to tranquillize the whole country so that all your children, whose numbers I was daily increasing, might dwell in peace. I spoke to them to the same effect as I had done to all the others.

Then came profuse thanks and many tears, also a ceremony which consisted in each man placing his hand on my head and taking me as his Father in your stead and place, and similarly our countrymen as brothers, by the same placing of hands on the heads of all of them and weeping.¹

¹ Henry notes the same peculiar custom in his visit to the Assiniboin in 1776. 'The speech ended,' he says, 'several of the Indians began to weep, and they were soon joined by the whole party. Had I not previously been witness to a weeping-scene of this description, I should certainly have been apprehensive of some disastrous catastrophe; but, as it was, I listened to it with tranquillity.' He adds that the tribe were sometimes known, from this characteristic, as the Weepers. See his Travels and Adventures, p. 291.

ceremonie faite larenqueur [harangueur] me dit nous te remercions mon pere d'auoir bien voulu te donnée la peine de venir à nous, nous allons tous tacompagner 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 doive venir au devant de toy. Nous auons ren[uoyé] 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 auéc leurs grains quil mange toujours beaux, nayant pour le plus souvent ny viande, ny graisse, Je les remercie de leur bonne volonté et les encouragés à nous rendre promtement qu'il voyoit aussi bien que moy la saison fort avancée, sachant que les mantannes nestoit pas prouisionnés de graisses j'en fis achetér dans le vilage en donnée a tout nôtre monde a porter

When this ceremony was concluded their orator said to me: 'We thank you, my Father, for having taken the trouble to come to us. We are all going to accompany you to the Mandan, and then conduct you back to your fort. We sent four men to notify them and those, who have just arrived, report that the Mandan are greatly delighted at your coming amongst them and will come to meet you. We have sent four other young men to bring them to the spot we have marked out for them. We shall go there by easy marches, hunting by the way, in order to have fat when we arrive there to eat with their grain, which they always eat plain, having for the most part neither meat nor fat.'

I thanked them for their good will and urged them to get us there quickly, as they saw as well as I that the season was far advanced. Knowing that the Mandan were not provided with fats, I had a quantity bought in the village, and gave our men as much to carry as they cared to, and

ce qu'il en voulure, et en fit porter pour nous par les sauvages, que je paye pour cela, j'auerty nos françois que jestois dans le desein de paser une partie de lyver chés les mantannes qu'il nesitasse point de se bien chargér de graisse, sinon qu'il mangeroit leurs ble et feües a leaux, le 20. tout le vilage se mit en marche pour se rendre, à 17 lieues ou il auoit marquée le rendés uous aux mantannes, tout les jours lon ne nous entretenoit, de blanc que nous alions voir françois comme nous qui se disoit desendant de nous, tout ce que lon nous disoit nous donnoit bonne esperance de faire une descouuerte qui merita atention, 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 Mr de lamarque le bon ordre auec lequel les assiliboiles marche pour preuenir toutes surprises marchant toujours dans des prairies, de caute et valons

had some carried for us by the savages, paying them for doing so. I notified our Frenchmen that I meant to pass a part of the winter with the Mandan, so that they should not hesitate to carry a pretty good weight of fat unless they wanted to eat their corn and beans with nothing but water.

On the 20th the whole village set out to go a distance of 17 leagues to the place of rendezvous with the Mandan. Every day they talked to us about the whites we were going to see, Frenchmen like ourselves, who said they were descended from us. Everything they said gave us hope of making a remarkable discovery. M. de Lamarque and myself, as we went along, made plans as to what we were to say, giving full credit to these statements which afterwards we had to discount considerably.

I called M. de Lamarque's attention to the good order in which the Assiniboin march so as to avoid surprise. From the first mountain the whole route lay in a prairie country, 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 vilages assiliboilles, surtout quand il sont nombreux est en trois colonnes des descouvreurs de vend sur les elles à une bonne arrière garde, les vieillards et estropiés marche dans celle du milieux qui est le centre. Je fesois tenir tout les françois ensemble autant que faire se pouuoit. Si les descouvreurs apercoive sur la route des bandes de beufs comme il arrive souvent, le crix se fait qui est bientost renduë à larriere 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 femmes et les chiens porte tout Lequipages, les

but with a succession of hills and valleys, which it is fatiguing to climb up and down several times a day. There are some magnificent plains of three or four leagues in extent. The marching order of the Assiniboin villagers, especially when they are numerous, is in three columns, the scouts in front, the wings [extending back] to a good rearguard; the old and disabled march in the main body which is in the middle. I had all the Frenchmen kept together as much as possible. If the scouts perceive any herds of buffalo on the way, as often happens, a cry is raised which is quickly heard by the rearguard, and all the most active men in the columns join the vanguard so as to surround the beasts, numbers of which they kill, whereupon each man takes all the meat he wants. As that arrests the march, the vanguard marks out the camping ground and no one must go any farther. The women and the dogs carry all the baggage. The men carry 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 ariuames 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 uilage, qui ne lessoit pas que de paroistre, je fis conduire dans la cabane ou jestois 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 endoüille qui nest pas bon ne sachant pas l'acomoder comme nous, il est bien comme le nostre, auec cette différence qui ne le plante point

only their arms. They often make their dogs carry firewood even, as they frequently have to camp in mid-prairie, the clumps of trees only occurring at distant intervals.¹

On the morning of the 28th we arrived at the place indicated as a rendezvous for the Mandan, who arrived in the evening, one chief with thirty men and four Assiniboin. After the chief had studied for some time from a height the extent of our village, which certainly looked pretty large, I had him conducted into the lodge in which I was, where a place at one side had been prepared for him. He came and sat beside me and some of his people sat next. He then presented me with some Indian corn in the ear and with a roll of their tobacco, which is not good as they do not know how to prepare it as we do. It is a good deal like ours, with this difference, that they do not plant it, and that they cut it

¹ On these and other practices and customs of the Assiniboin, compare Henry's Travels and Adventures; Cocking's Journal (R.S.C. 1908); Coues' New Light, etc.; John McDonnell's 'Narrative,' in Masson's Bourgeois de la Compagnie du Nord-Ouest; Harmon's Journal.

et le coupe verd, mettant tout a profit, coton et les feuilles ensemble, je luy en donné du mien, qu'il trouua bien bon, javouë que je fus surpris, mattendant a voir des gens differents des autres sauuages, surtout le recit que l'on nous en auoit fait il ny a point de difference d'auec les assiliboilles nue couuerd seulement d'une robe de beuf, porté négligemment sans brayet, je conus des lors que nous auions bien a desconter

green, using the stalks and leaves together. I gave him some of mine which he found very good.

I confess I was greatly surprised, as I expected to see people quite different from the other savages according to the stories that had been told us. They do not differ from the Assiniboin, being naked except for a garment of buffalo skin carelessly worn without any breechcloth.² I knew then that there was a large discount to be taken off all

of American Indians.

2 'The chief article of their dress,' says Maximilian, who visited the tribe in 1833, 'is the ample buffalo robe, called mahita, or mih-sha, which is often very elaborate and valuable. In dry weather these buffalo robes are worn with the hair inwards, and in rainy weather with the hairy side outwards.' He adds that even in the midst of winter they wear nothing on the upper part of the body under their buffalo robe.

¹ When Alexander Henry visited the Mandan in 1806 he also was presented with some of the native tobacco. As it was July, and the herb was not yet arrived at maturity, the Indians used only the blossoms. 'These,' he says in his Travels, 'are collected as required, dried before the fire on a fragment of an earthen pot, and smoked by all the natives. But I find the flowers a very poor substitute for our own tobacco—a nauseous, insipid weed. The ripe leaf is somewhat better, but even that is mere trash, possessed of neither strength nor virtue.' This was the Nicotiana quadrivalvis. Maximilian of Wied, in his Travels, says the Mandan and other Missouri Indians smoked 'the leaves of the tobacco plant, which is cultivated by them; the bark of the red willow (Cornus sericea), which they obtain from the traders, is sometimes mixed with the tobacco, or the latter with the leaves of the bearberry (Arbutus Uva-ursi). The tobacco of the white, unmixed, is too strong for the Indians, because they draw the smoke into their lungs; hence they do not willingly smoke cigars . . . The tobacco cultivated by the Mandans, Manitaries and Arikkaras, attains a great height, and is suffered to grow up from the seeds, without having any care whatever bestowed upon it.' See also Masson, i. 339; Will and Spinden, The Mandans, p. 119; and article 'Tobacco' in Hodge, Handbook of American Indians.

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 quun auec nous, que je pouuois disposer de tout ce qu'il 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 riuière 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 auec eux, que je leurs parlerois si tost que je serois arriué à leurs fort, il nous joua sur le champ une marote,

that had been told me. The chief spoke to me in Assiniboin testifying the joy which my arrival caused to all their people, and requesting me to receive them into the number of your children; he wished in future to make only one with us, and I might dispose of all he had; he begged me to stay at his fort, which was the nearest, a smaller one than the others but well stocked with provisions. There were six forts, he said, belonging to the same tribe; his was the only one that was a little far from the river; when I arrived he would show me two collars that he had received from me; he had always hoped to see me.

I thanked him for all his politeness and offers, saying that I came from a great distance to form a friendship with them, and that I would talk to them as soon as I had arrived at their fort. At once he played us a sharp trick. As I

¹ Lewis and Clark (1804) mention the ruins of nine Mandan villages on the Missouri. The tribe was then living some eighty miles farther up the river. Of the nine villages, they say that seven were on the west and two on the east side of the Missouri. Between 1738 and 1804 the Mandan had wasted away before the small-pox and the Sioux, and the American travellers found them in two villages, one on either side of the river.

ayant consideré notre uilage en arivant comme jay 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 gratieusement tous ceux qui vont chés eux, ne vende le grain que pour emportér il fit de grand remerciments aux assiliboilles de leurs avoir amenés le francois chez eux, quil ne pouvoit arriver plus a propos, que les sioux ne deuoit pas tarder a arriuér chés eux ayant été avertis, me priant comme les assiliboilles vouloir bien leurs donnér secours esperant beaucoup de nostre valeur et courage, je donné, dans le panneaux comme les assiliboilles, avec cette difference, que l'assiliboille demeura interdit, et moy je men rejouis croyant trouvér occasion de me venger de cette maudite nation, je luy promis que s'il venoit pendant que nous serions ches eux, tout secours de moy et tous nos françois, il me remercia, on le vint chercher pour le mener

have already observed, he had, on his arrival, carefully noted the size of our encampment, and he saw that, if all those people arrived at his fort, there would be a vast consumption of grain, the custom being to feed without charge those who go to visit them, and only to sell such grain as is carried away. So he now gave great thanks to the Assiniboin for having brought the French to see them: they could not, he said, have arrived more apropos, because the Sioux would soon be there having been notified of our movements; and he begged me as well as the Assiniboin to be so good as to assist them, as they hoped much from our valour and courage.

I was imposed upon as were the Assiniboin, but with this difference, that they were dismayed while I was rejoiced, hoping for a chance to avenge myself on that accursed nation. I promised the chief that, if the Sioux came while we were with him, I and all our Frenchmen would give him all the help in our power. He thanked me, and then he was

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 quil pense plus brave, les mantannes connoissent leurs faible et en profite dans Locasion, Le Conseil se teint pour Deliberer sur ce qu'il deuoit faire, la plus forte voix estoit qu'il ne fa[loit] passer outre de m'avertir du risque que jalois courir si je uoulois poursuiver un vieillard se leua fortement, ne pensées pas que nôtre pere est lache, je le connois mieux que uous autres, jay toujours esté avec Luy depuis quil 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

summoned to the feast, when I questioned him regarding the Sioux. The Assiniboin, I learnt, though a numerous race, strong and robust, are not brave, and are greatly afraid of the Sioux, whom they consider braver than themselves. The Mandan know their weakness and on occasion profit by it.

A council was held to deliberate as to what they should do. The majority were of opinion that they should not proceed any farther, and that I ought to be warned of the risk I ran if I determined to go on. An old man then rose quickly to his feet: 'Don't think,' said he, 'that our father is a coward; I know him better than you do; I have been with him ever since he left his fort, and don't you imagine that the Sioux are able to frighten him or any of his men. What will he think of us? He has lengthened his journey

As the Assiniboin were of Siouan stock, and lived much the same nomadic life on the western plains as their cousins, it is hard to account for the apparent dread they felt of the Sioux. The Sioux were the Iroquois of the west, the Ishmaelites of the prairie. All the early narratives describe the Assiniboin as continually at war with them. The furtraders shared the native dread of the Sioux. Larocque, in his 1805 Journal (Canadian Archives Pub. No. 3), in crossing the Coteau du Missouri, says that they saw quantities of buffalo, but did not dare fire at them because of the Sioux. When Alexander Henry ascended Red river in 1800 he had great difficulty in preventing his men turning back when they reached the borders of the Sioux country.

chemin pour nous venir joindre en acordant a notre demande pour lacompagner chés les mantannes et le reconduire a son fort, il seroit rendue aujourdhuy sil ne nous auoit point écouté et vous penceriez labandonnér 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 suive nostre pere, tout acordere au sentiment du vieillard il fut decidé quil ne resteroit que peu de monde pour garder les femmes, tout le reste macompagneroit, 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 quil save que les assiliboilles estime beaucoup qui leurs auoit aportés et tiré en eschange fusille, ache, chodiere, poudre, balles, couteaux,

in order to join us, in accordance with our request, we undertaking to accompany him to the Mandan and then conduct him back to his fort. He would be there [with the Mandan] to-day if he had not listened to us, and you would think of abandoning him and letting him go alone. That shall never be. If you are afraid of the Sioux let us leave our village here till we return, and let the men who are fit to march follow our Father.'

All fell in with the sentiment of the old man, and it was decided that only a few men should remain to protect the women, and that all the rest should accompany me. I was notified of the result of the council, and proclamation was made through the village that every one was to be in readiness to march the day after next, the 30th of the month, a stay to be made with the Mandan, who knew well how to profit by it in selling their grains, tobacco, skins and coloured plumes which they know the Assiniboin prize highly. The latter brought them in exchange guns, axes, kettles, powder, bullets,

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 lieuës du premier fort des Mantannes, l'on mauertit qu'un assiliboille auoit pris le sac de mon esclave dans le chemin sous pretexte de soulagment, estoit retourné au village, ma boëte 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 raportér le sac chez les Mantannes, ou je les atenderois, ils partire dans la nuit, rejoignirent le fripon qui estoit deja décampée du village, lui fire rendre tout et revinre à leurs vilage garder le tout, espérant me rendre à mon retour,

knives, awls. The Mandan are much more crafty than the Assiniboin in their commerce and in everything, and always dupe them.¹

We left on the morning of the 30th, about 600 men and several women without children, some of the best walkers. On the evening of the third day of our march, when we were about seven leagues from the first fort of the Mandan, I was told that an Assiniboin had taken the bag my slave was carrying on the road, under pretext of relieving him, and had returned to the village, my box, in which were my papers and many things for my own use, being in the bag. Instantly I hired two young men to run after him and paid them, making them promise to bring the bag to me at the Mandan settlement where I would await them. They left in the night and caught up with the rascal, who had already decamped from the village, made him hand everything back, and then went back to their village to keep the recovered

¹ Early British traders who visited the Mandan from their posts on the Assiniboine bear witness to their shrewdness in driving a bargain.

n'ozant point me venir trouver craîgnant les Sioux, je me vis privée de bien des choses qui mestoit journellement fort utiles—Laranqueur auerty qu'il faloit partir devant quatre heures du matin enfin dariver de bon heure au fort, je trouuée a une lieuë 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 atendant et auoit apportés du petit blé cuit et farine groulée en pate avéc de la sitroüille pour nous donner à manger a tous, deux chef, mauoit 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

property till my return, as they were afraid to come where I was on account of the Sioux; and so I found myself deprived of many things that I was much in need of every day.

The orator gave notice that we should have to leave before four the next morning in order to arrive in good time at the fort. At a distance of a league and a half I found towards noon, near to a small river, a number of people who had come to meet us. They had lighted a fire while waiting, and had brought along some cooked grain and flour worked into a paste with pumpkin, so as to give us all something to eat. Two chiefs had prepared me a place near the fire, but first they gave me some food and a pipe. M. de Lamarque arrived shortly after me. I begged him to sit

¹ Maximilian says the Mandan cultivated maize, gourds, and sunflowers, and used several wild plants of the prairie, such as the feverolles (Faba minor equina), a fruit resembling the bean, and various roots. They boiled or roasted the maize, pounded it, mixed it with fat, and made it into small cakes which they baked. They also made cakes of sunflower seeds. Catlin says they stored for winter use 'great quantities of dried squashes and dried pommes blanches, a kind of turnip which grows in great abundance in these regions. These are dried in great quantities and pounded into a sort of meal, and cooked with dried meat and corn.' Lewis and Clark speak of being entertained with a favourite Mandan dish, 'a mixture of pumpkins, beans, corn, and chokecherries with the stones, all boiled together in a kettle, and forming a composition by no means unpalatable.'

priai de se mestre à costé et de manger en se reposant, nous restames bien deux heures à nous reposér—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 marchér à la teste, ordre aux françois de suivre par ordre, le Sr nolant soulagent mon fils portant le pavillon chaquun leurs tour, les mantannes ne voulurent pas me laissér marchér, sofrire a me portér, il me fallut bien consentir en estant priés par les assilliboiles 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 m² de

down beside me and eat while resting. We continued resting for two full hours. Then I was notified that it was time to move on. I made one of my sons take the flag showing in colours the arms of France and march at the head, while the French were directed to follow in proper marching order. The Sieur Nolan relieved my son by taking turns with him in carrying the flag. The Mandan would not let me walk, offering to carry me, and I had to consent, the Assiniboin begging me to do so and saying that I should displease them [the Mandan] greatly if I refused.

At four arpents from the fort, on a little elevation, a party of the older men of the fort, accompanied by a great number of young men, were waiting to present me with the pipe and to show me the two collars I had sent them four or five years before. They gave seats to me and to M. de

¹ Charles Mackenzie, in his *Missouri Indians* (Masson, i. 381), says: 'Some nations have the custom of carrying the ambassador of a neighbouring nation into their camp on their shoulders.'

lamarque, je receu leurs compliments qui ne consistoit que a la joye qu'il resentoit de nostre arrivée, jordonné a mon fils le chevalier de faire border la aix a tous nos françois, le pauillon devant a quatre pas de distance, tous les assiliboilles qui auoit des fusils se mirent en Rang comme nos françois 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 rempard 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' de la marque, son frere et mes enfans, qu'il y auoit de libre, je demandés que lon fit sortir le grand monde pour

Lamarque. I received their compliments, the substance of which was that they were delighted at our arrival. I ordered my son the Chevalier to draw the French up in line with the standard four paces in front. All the Assiniboin who had guns fell into line also like our Frenchmen, and after the compliments were over I ordered a salute to the fort of three volleys. A great many people had come to meet us, but that was nothing in comparison with what we saw on the rampart and along the ditches. I marched in good order to the fort, which I entered on the 3rd December at four in the afternoon, escorted by all the French and the Assiniboin.

I was led into the lodge of the principal chief, a large one truly, but not large enough to hold all the people who wanted to enter it. The crowd was so great that Assiniboin and Mandan were all treading on one another's heels. The only free space was where we were, myself, M. de Lamarque, his brother, and my sons. I asked that most of them might be

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 trouvée 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 liures dedans les assiliboilles parure fort peinés et fire de grandes recherches sur lheure bien inutilement. Leurs fort est remply de caves ou ils

made to retire so as to give more room to our Frenchmen and enable them to put their baggage in a place of safety. I said to them that they would have plenty of time to see me. So the place was cleared, but I had not had it done soon enough; for some one had stolen my bag of merchandise in which were all my presents, and this through the serious fault of one of my hired men into whose care I had given it before arriving at the fort. He took off his load when he entered the lodge without thinking of the bag that he had put close to himself in the great crowd.

I was a little disconcerted with my box lost as well as my bag of presents, which was most necessary to us for the place we had arrived at; there were goods in it to the value of over three hundred livres. The Assiniboin appeared to be much troubled over it, and made great search immediately, but to no purpose. Their [the Mandan] fort is provided with a great many cellars, in fine for storing things in. The chief of

¹ Catlin, in his North American Indians, says the Mandan stored their corn in holes dug in the ground, some six or seven feet deep, 'the insides of which are somewhat in the form of a jug and tightly closed at the top.' These caches are also described by Alexander Henry, Maximilian, and other travellers. See also Will and Spinden, The Mandans, p. 110.

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 descouvrir 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 uoulant 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 jestois, je leurs fis mon present en poudre et balles, en leur disant que je ne pouuois leurs donnér autres choses qu'il savoit tout ce que lon mauoit fait aporter pour donner en present, je leur desclarés que j'estois dans le sentiment de rester quelque temps pour prendre connoissance du païs 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

the Mandan seemed very sorry for my loss, and told me, for my consolation, that they had a great many rascals among them; he would do his best to find out something about it. If I had cared to avail myself of the offer of the Assiniboin, I might have found it quickly by using force; but I preferred to suffer loss and keep things quiet, as I meant to pass part of the winter with them to get some information about more distant parts.

On the 4th I got together the principal Mandan and Assiniboin men in the lodge in which I was, and made them a present of powder and ball, saying that I could not give them anything else; that they knew all the things that I had had to bring in order to give as presents [had been carried off]. I stated that I felt inclined to remain some time in order to become acquainted with the country in accordance with our orders, a thing which could not be done in a day. The Mandan expressed the joy this announcement caused them, and assured me that I need not be afraid

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. Lancien des assiliboilles arengueur du vilage, me dit mon père, nous tauions 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 uiendrons 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, uous estes fort heureux que notre pere soit bon cela naurait pas passé de même, je ne

of starving because they had provisions in reserve far beyond our requirements, their whole fort being stocked with them, and that all was at my disposal as, with them, I was master.¹

The Assiniboin elder who was orator of the village said to me: 'My Father, we brought you here, and I don't doubt that you will be comfortable here. We were hoping to take you back to your fort; but you are free to do what you judge best; we shall come for you whenever you wish it.' Then addressing the Mandan: 'We are leaving you our Father; take great care of him and of all the French; learn to know them, for they are wise, they know how to do everything. We love our Father and we fear him; do as we do. We are leaving much distressed over the theft committed on our Father as he came in among us. What can he think of us? We cannot help considering it a shameful thing: the Frenchman comes to see you and you rob him. It was fortunate for you that our Father is kind, as otherwise the thing would

¹ On Mandan hospitality see Will and Spinden, p. 127.

crains pas de uous le dire il nous auroit bien fait trouver le sac sil auoit uoulu, il est encore temps s'il le veut, 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 enfants, 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 remerciment, je dis ensuite aux assiliboiles jenvoye quatre françois a mon fort pour y donner de mes nouvelles,

have taken a different turn. I don't fear to tell you that, if he had wished, he could have made us find that bag, and there is time yet if he wishes it.' I put a stop to his speech, seeing that the old man was getting hot.

One of the Mandan chiefs replied: 'Neither I nor my people have any part in the accusations you are making: I do not answer for the others; I feel sore enough about it. I have made all enquiry in my power with the aid of my young men, and I have nothing to reproach! myself with. Who knows that it was not an Assiniboin? There were men of both tribes in the crowd; you cannot answer for anything yourself. Don't be uneasy about our Father and all his men; he is master here as much as if he were at home; we beg him to admit us to the number of his children.'

This I did on the spot by placing my hands on the head of each chief, which is the usual form; and they all reply with shouts of joy and thankfulness. I then said to the Assiniboin: 'I am sending four Frenchmen to my fort to give them news

je vous recommande 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 remerciment de part et d'autre, comme les assiliboilles ne parloit point encore de partir ayant cependant fait leur achat de tout ce qu'il auoit pu estre en etat dacheter comme robe de beuf peinturé, peaux de serf et chevreuille bien passée et enjoliuée 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 despouillés les assiliboilles de tout ce quils peuvent avoir comme fusille poudre balles chodiere ache couteaux aleine, uoyant la grande consommation de uiures qui se faisoit tous les jours

of my doings, and I beg you to take them there as speedily as may be. I have left powder at the village and all else that is necessary for the accomplishment of the journey.' The council closed with great thanks from both parties.

As yet the Assiniboin were not talking of leaving, though they had completed their purchases of all the things they were to buy, such as coloured buffalo robes, deer and buck skins, carefully dressed and ornamented with fur and feathers, painted feathers and furs, worked garters, head-bands, girdles. Of all the tribes they [the Mandan] are the most skilful in dressing leather, and they work very delicately in hair and feathers ¹; the Assiniboin cannot do work of the same kind. They are sharp traders, and clean the Assiniboin out of everything they have in the way of guns, powder, ball, kettles, axes, knives and awls.

Seeing the great quantity of provisions the Assiniboin

¹ Maximilian of Wied describes in detail the coloured robes, leggings and other garments of the Mandan, representations of which will be found in his Atlas, as well as among the illustrations in Catlin's North American Indians, and Long's Expedition to the Rocky Mountains.

par les assiliboilles apreendant quil ne restasse longtemps 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 javois logé dans le village mamena 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 que j'auois de lesprit dans peu,

were consuming every day, and being afraid they would stay a long time, they spread the report that the Sioux were not far away; that several of their hunters had caught sight of them. The Assiniboin fell into the trap and quickly decided to decamp, not wanting to have to fight. A Mandan chief made a sign to me to wait and that the report about the Sioux was only to get the Assiniboin to go. On the morning of the 6th they all left in great haste, believing the Sioux to be at hand and fearing that they would intercept them.

The chief with whom I had lodged in the village brought me five men to stay with me saying: 'My Father, I regret to leave you. I still hope you will come and overtake us in a short time; I will move on gently. Here are five of my young men whom I give you to stay here with you; they will bring you along whenever you wish to leave.' I made him a little present to thank him, telling him that he would know in a short time that I was the right kind of man, my

ayant dessin de le recompenser de son atention, Il partit avec de grandes protestations damitié, l'on ne uint auertir peu de temps après que notre interprete que j'auois bien payé pour massurér 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 uoulu rester auèc 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 auèc moy, de ne jamais mabandonner, jaurois 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 jauois remis après le despard des assili-

intention being to make him some due recompense for his attention. He left with great protestations of friendship.

Shortly afterwards I was informed that my interpreter, whom I had paid well to make sure of him, had decamped, in spite of all the offers my son the Chevalier could make him, in order to follow an Assiniboin woman of whom he was enamoured, but who had refused to remain with him. He was a young man, a Cree by nationality, who spoke good Assiniboin, and as there are several Mandan who speak it pretty well I made myself perfectly understood. My son spoke in Cree, and the Cree interpreted it into Assiniboin; but now, to crown our misfortunes, we were reduced to trying to make ourselves understood by signs and gestures. If I had distrusted my interpreter, who every day assured me that he would always stay with me and never abandon me, I would have taken advantage of the time he was with me to ask the questions that I wished to ask the Mandan; but, flattering myself that I had a man whom I could depend

boilles, estant toute la journée fort embarrassée Tout ce que j'ay peu sçauoir et quelque demande que je fesois 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 conoisance 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 auec eux depuis quatre ans, auoit toujours de tout temps

on, I had put off doing so till after the departure of the Assiniboin.

All day long I was greatly perplexed. All that I succeeded in learning in the evening, after all the people had gone, in reply to any questions that I asked, such as whether there was much population along the river banks farther down, and of what nations it consisted, and whether they had any knowledge of a country far beyond, was that there were five forts of their own people on the two sides of the river much larger than the one we were in; that at a day's journey from the last of their forts were the Panaux, who had several forts, and beyond them the Pananis 1; that these two tribes occupied a large territory, and that at present they were at war with the Mandan and had been for the last four years. Formerly they had always been their close

¹ One can only conjecture the identity of these Panaux, or Panana, and Pananis. The resemblance of the names to Pawnee, who were known to the French as Panis or slaves, and who have sometimes been referred to as Panana, Pananan, etc., is curious, but not conclusive. Lewis and Clark mention the Pawnee as living on the Platte, in villages, and cultivating corn. The Arikara, a branch of the Skidi Pawnee, occupied villages on the Missouri, and in other respects answer to La Vérendrye's description. Prof. Libby, whose article on Missouri village sites is referred to elsewhere, and who argues ingeniously that La Vérendrye visited, not the Mandan, but the Hidatsa or Grosventres, identifies the Panana as the Mandan, and the Pananis as the Arikara. Will and Spinden assume both the Panana and Pananis to be the Arikara (*The Mandans*, p. 95), and this seems, in all the circumstances, a reasonable assumption.

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 rivière qui se trouuoit fort large, ne uoyant 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 auec la fleche ny le fusille estant couuert de fer mais que tuant le cheval l'on atrapoit homme facilement, ne pouvant courir, auoir des pare fleche de fer bien clair se batoit avec des lances et sabre dont il estoit bien allies, and I should hear later what had caused the falling out.

The Panana and the Pananis built their forts and lodges in the same way in which they themselves did. In the summer corn and tobacco grew lower down the river, which was very wide so that you could not see the land on the other side. The water was not drinkable; all the land there was inhabited by people white like ourselves who worked in iron. Among all the tribes of this region the word iron seems to be applied indiscriminately to all metals. Those people, I was told, never went on foot, but always on horseback, both when they hunted and when they went to war. You could not kill any of these men with arrow or gun as they had iron armour, but that by killing a horse you could capture the man easily enough as he could not run. They had iron bucklers, very bright, and fought with lances and sabres, which they handled with great skill. You never

¹ All this clearly refers to the Spaniards, with whom some of the Mandan may very well have come in contact on expeditions to the south. In fact the details furnished here are of such a character as to point rather to the testimony of eye-witnesses than that acquired at second-hand. Note also the explicit statement in the following paragraph that 'it took a whole summer to make the journey.'

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 continuait 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 rivière, je demandés 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 estè pour en faire le voyage rien que des hommes, depuis qu'ils auoit guerre auec les panana ils nausoit 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

saw a woman in their fields; their fort and houses were of stone.

I asked if the country was well wooded, and if the prairies continued to be marked by risings and depressions. They said that wood was found along the river in places, and also in clumps through the prairies; the further you went down, the higher the hills became, and that there were many that were bare rocks of fine stone, especially along the river. I asked if it took a long time to go to the country where the whites, the men who rode horses, were. They replied that the Panana and Pananis had horses like the whites; it took them a whole summer to make the journey with men alone; but since they had been at war with the Panana they did not venture to go very far. The roads were blocked so far as they were concerned. Buffaloes abounded in the prairies, much larger and heavier beasts than those we see in the

¹ That is, the Mandan, who at this period had not yet acquired horses. When, however, Lewis and Clark visited them in 1804, they had evidently been accustomed to the use of these animals for many years.

nous voyons dans les prairies le poille blanc et de plusieurs couleur, il nous montrere des cornes fenduë par la moitié qui tienne bien pres de trois chopines dune couleur verdastre, Il y en a dans toutes les cabanes qui leur serve de cullier a pot, preuve quils en ont beaucoup tués dans le temps quil auoit le chemin libre, C'est tout ce que jay peu sauoir encore bien par azard, content fort sur mon interprete et auoir tout le temps de minformer a font a loysir, le 6 après le despard des assiliboilles, j'enuoyés mon fils le cheualier auec le Sr nolant six françois et plusieurs mantannes au fort le plus près, qui est sur le bord de la rivière. Sil estoit bien receu d'y restér a coucher de sinformer de leurs mieux du ruent de vend de la rivière quil habite, sil ont connoissance du bas

prairies here, their hides white and of several colours. They showed us some horns cut across the middle which hold nearly three pints, their colour being greenish. There are some in all the lodges which are used as ladles, a proof that they killed a great many of them when the road was open.

That was all I was able to learn, and even so there was a good deal of chance about it. I had counted fully on my interpreter and expected to have plenty of time to inform myself thoroughly and at my leisure. On the sixth day after the departure of the Assiniboin I sent my son the Chevalier with the Sieur Nolan, six Frenchmen, and several Mandan, to the nearest fort, which is on the bank of the river. If they were well received they were to stay there over night and get as much information as they could as to the further course of the river on which those people dwell 2; and, if they have any knowledge of the lower portion of it,

¹ 'The spoons,' says Maximilian of Wied, 'are generally large and deep; they are made of the horn of the bighorn; sometimes they are yellow, or else they are shallow, made of black buffalo's horn.'
² The Missouri.

selon ce qui nous en a esté dit, d'en tirér tout ce quil pouroit aprendre, Le tout par signe et démonstration, après leurs depard, Mr de Lamarque et moy, nous nous promenammes, pour obseruér la grandeur de leurs fortification, jordonné de contér les cabannes, lon trouva quil pouvoit y en avoir cent trente, toutes les ruës places et cabannes se ressemble, plusieurs de nos françois si ecartoit souvent, il tienne les rues et place fort nette, les rempard bien unie et Large, la palissade est apuyés sur des trauérs en mortoize dans des poteaux de quinze pieds a quinze points doublé, se sont des peaux verte quil mette pour doublage dans le besoin ataché seulemen par en haut dans les endroit quil 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

according to what has been told to us, to get as many facts from them as possible, all of which would have to be done by signs and gestures.

After their departure M. de Lamarque and I took a walk to examine the extent of their fortifications. I gave orders to count the cabins, and we found that there were about one hundred and thirty. All the streets, squares and cabins are uniform in appearance; often our Frenchmen would lose their way in going about. They keep the streets and open spaces very clean; the ramparts are smooth and wide; the palisade is supported on cross pieces mortised into posts fifteen feet apart with a lining. For this purpose they use green hides fastened only at the top in places where they are needed. As to the bastions, there are four of them at each curtain well flanked.¹ The fort is built on an elevation

¹ Maximilian of Wied, describing one of the Mandan villages in 1833, says it 'forms an irregular circle, and was anciently surrounded with strong posts or palisades. . . . At four places, at nearly equal distances from each other, is a bastion built of clay, furnished with loopholes, and lined both within and without with basketwork of willow branches.' See also Will and Spinden, op. cit., p. 105.

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 quil aute dans le danger de lennemy, 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 cheveu blon et blanc, c'ést une nation fort laborieuse, hommes et femmes, leurs cabanne sont grande espacieuse séparé en plusieurs apartemens par des madriers fort large rien ne

in mid-prairie with a ditch over fifteen feet deep and from fifteen to eighteen wide. Entrance to the fort can only be obtained by steps or pieces [of wood] which they remove when threatened by the enemy. If all their forts are similar you may say that they are impregnable to savages. Their fortification, indeed, has nothing savage about it.¹

This tribe is of mixed blood, white and black. The women are rather handsome, particularly the light-coloured ones; they have an abundance of fair hair.² The whole tribe, men and women, is very industrious. Their dwellings are large and spacious, divided into several apartments by wide planks.³

¹ Maximilian of Wied was also struck with the character of the Mandan fortifications—remarkable as the work of a savage tribe. 'It is said,' he says, 'that these bulwarks . . . were erected for the Indians by the whites.'

^{2 &#}x27;There are a great many of these people,' says Catlin, 'whose complexions appear as light as half-breeds; and amongst the women particularly there are many whose skins are almost white. . . . Governor Clarke told me, before I started for this place, that I would find the Mandans a strange people, and half white. . . . The diversity in the colour of the hair is equally as great as that in the complexion; for in a numerous group of these people . . . there may be seen every shade and colour of hair that can be seen in our own country, with the exception of red or auburn.'

³ 'The huts,' says Maximilian of Wied, 'are of a circular form, slightly vaulted, having a sort of portico entrance. . . . The interior is spacious, tolerably light, and cleanly.' Catlin gives a similar account, at more length, in his North American Indians, i. 82; Will and Spinden, op. cit., pp. 106 et seq.

traine, tout leurs equipage est dans de grands sac suspendue a des poteaux, leur lits faits en manière de tombeaux entouré de peaux, tout couche nuë homme et femme, ces hommes sont toujours nue couuert seulement dune robe de beuf, une grande partie de femmes nuës comme les hommes auec cette difference quel porte un petit brayet volant large de la main et dun pied de long cousuë a une seinture par deuant seulement, toutes les femmes ont cette espece de modeste . . .

Nothing is lying about: all their belongings are placed in large bags hung on posts 1; their beds are made in the form of tombs and are surrounded by skins.2 They all go to bed naked, both men and women. The men go naked all the time, being covered only by a buffalo robe.3 Many of the women go naked like the men, with this difference, that they wear a small loin-cloth about a hand wide and a foot long sewed to a girdle in front only. All the women wear this kind of protection even when they wear a petticoat, so that

1 'Round the inner circumference of the hut lie or hang the baggage, the furniture, and other property, in leather bags, the painted parchment travelling bags, and the harness of the horses' (Maximilian of Wied, Travels). Catlin says the space between the beds is 'occupied by a large post, fixed quite firm in the ground, and six or seven feet high, with large wooden pegs or bolts in it, on which are hung and grouped . . . the arms and armour of the respective proprietor, etc.

2 'The beds stand against the wall of the hut; they consist of a large

square case made of parchment or skins, with a square entrance, and are large enough to hold several persons, who lie very conveniently and warm on skins and blankets' (Maximilian of Wied). Catlin describes the construction of the beds: 'A buffalo skin, fresh stripped from the animal, is stretched across the bottom poles, and about two feet from the floor, which, when it dries, becomes much contracted, and forms a perfect sacking-bottom. The fur side of this skin is placed uppermost, on which they lie with great comfort, with a buffalo robe folded up for a pillow, and others drawn over them instead of blankets. These beds . . . are uniformly screened with a covering of buffalo or elk skins . . . leaving a hole in front.' 'Their beds,' says Alexander Henry, 'are raised about

two feet from the ground and hung around with dressed skins.'

3 'The men,' says Alexander Henry, writing in 1806 (Coues, New Light, etc.), 'wear no other covering in summer than buffalo robes, and even those are seldom worn within doors, being only thrown on when they go out to visit or walk about the village. Both sexes sleep naked,'
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quoiqu'il ait une jupe ce qui fait qu'il ne se gene point ou ne se ser point les cuisses comme toutes les femmes sauvagesses pour sasseoir plusieurs porte une espece de camisol dun cuir de chevreuille bien molet, Il y a beaucoup de cheureuille, il est fort petit, leurs fort est rempli de cave ou ils ser tout ce quil ont comme grains, uiande, graisse, robe passée, peaux d'ours, ils sont bien muni, cést la monoie du pays, plus il en ont plus ils se tienne riche, ayme beaucoup la picure, il n'ont jamais que la moitié du corps piqué hommes et femmes, il trauaille en osier fort proprement plat et corbeille, il se

they are not embarrassed when they sit down and do not have to keep the thighs closed like other Indian women. Some wear a kind of jacket of very soft buckskin.¹

The roebuck is abundant in the region and is of a very small variety.² Their fort is very well provided with cellars, where they store all they have in the way of grains, meat, fat, dressed skins and bearskins. They have a great stock of these things, which form the money of the country. The more they have the richer they consider themselves. They are very fond of tattooing, but neither men nor women ever have more than half the body tattooed.3 They do very fine

^{1 &#}x27;The women wear a long leather garment, with open sleeves, and a girdle around the waist . . . their leggings, called by the Canadians mitasse, are short, reaching only from the ankle to the knee '(Maximilian of Wied).

² Antelope (Antilocapra americana). Will and Spinden describe the Mandan method of catching antelope in parks or pounds (The Mandans,

^{3 &#}x27;Tattooing,' says Maximilian of Wied, 'is in use among these people, but by no means general. Most commonly only the left half of the breast and the corresponding arm are marked with black parallel stripes, and a few other figures. The lower arm and some of the fingers are occasionally marked; the men do not tattoo their faces, and they are far inferior in this art to the New Zealanders and other nations of the South Seas. Among the women such designs are sometimes seen, but not frequently, and they are chiefly among the women's band of the white buffalo cow. The point of the needle is dyed a dark blue with the bark of the willow soaked in water.'
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serve de pots de terre quils font comme bien d'autres nations, pour faire cuire 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 sitroüilles, cela tout cuit, m² 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 afable la plupart des femmes n'ont point la fisionomie sauvage, les hommes jouë a une espece de jeu de boule, sur les places et ramparts, Le S² Nolant et

wicker work, both flat and in basket form.¹ They use earthen vessels, which they make like many other tribes, for cooking their victuals.²

For the most part they are great eaters and are strong on feasts. Every day more than twenty dishes were brought to me, corn, beechnuts, pumpkin, and always cooked. M. de Lamarque, who had no repugnance to feasts, went continually to them with my sons. As I did not go, they sent me my dish. The men are big and tall, very active and, for the most part, good-looking, fine physiognomies, and affable. The women generally have not a savage cast of features. The men play at a kind of ball game on the open spaces and the ramparts.³

¹ Alexander Henry (Coues, *New Light, etc.*, vol. i., p. 340) mentions willow mats among the Mandan.

³ Alexander Henry gives the following account of this game: 'Two person are each provided with a stick six feet long, on which are cut a certain number of notches an inch long, in the intervals of which are

² 'The earthen dishes or bowls . . . are a familiar part of the culinary furniture of every Mandan lodge, and are manufactured by the women of this tribe in great quantities, and modelled into a thousand forms and tastes. They are made by the hands of the women from a tough black clay, and baked in kilns which are made for the purpose, and are nearly equal in hardness to our own manufacture of pottery, though they have not yet got the art of glazing. . . They make them so hard and serviceable that they hang them over the fire as we do our iron pots, and boil their meat in them with perfect success' (Catlin).

mon fils arriuere le 4 au soir fort satisfait de leurs voyage ayant esté très reçeu et fort solicité pour rester plus longtemps il me raportère Le fort est sur le bord de la riuière 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, auec 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 panana, que la

The Sieur Nolan and my son arrived on the evening of the fourth highly satisfied with their journey, having been very well received and strongly urged to stay longer. The fort, they reported, is on the river bank and as large again as this one. The open spaces and the streets are very handsome and clean. Their palisade is in better order and stronger, the whole constructed, however, in the same fashion as the one in which we were; and, from what he was able to learn, all their forts are similar: when you see one you see them all, except that some are much larger than others; the farthest was the largest of all, the one nearest to the

fixed the same number of small bunches of feathers of divers colours, with three pieces of wood, 16 inches square, one near each end, and one in the middle; these are perforated in the centre, and through them is passed the rod, painted of divers colours. Each notch has a particular mark, the nature of which they themselves only understand—indeed, the same may be said of the whole game. The ground on which they play is a smooth level space, about 40 paces long and 5 broad. The players stand side by side, start from one end of the ground, and trot on till they are halfway through, when one of them throws a ball gently ahead, in such a manner that it will not roll further than the space allowed for the game; at the same time both players push their rod forward to overtake and keep pace with the ball, but not to check its course. They then examine the particular notch or bunch of feathers at which the ball stops, and count accordingly.' The same game is described by Maximilian of Wied, with the remark that it is called billiards by the French Canadians; also by Catlin, under the name of Tchung-kee: see his North American Indians, i. 132, and plate 59; also Will and Spinden, The Mandans, pp. 124-25.

rivière paroissoit aller selon la boussole aux sud-ouëst quard de sud par les signes que on leur avoit fait le bas peut, se rendre à la mer au sud ouest quard ouëst qu'il jouoit souuent au propos interrompu ne pouvant satendre Les demandes quil 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 avait pu comp[rendre] est qu'il y avoit des hommes comme nous au bas de la riuiere, fesoit de lestoffes et toilles estoit fort nombreux, auoit guerres, avec une grande partie des sauuages, uoyant qu'il estoit inutile a nous de vouloir les questionnée ne pouuant nous entendre, nous nauons cessé destre en festin tout le temps que nous auons restés a leur fort, encore nous nauons

Panana. According to the compass the river appeared to run south-west by south; and by the signs which they had made it may flow into the sea in a direction south-west by west. Often they would interrupt one another through their impatience to speak. When asked about one thing they replied about something else through failure to comprehend.

Their river has a strong current and a good many shoals, and the water not of the best quality for drinking, being rather brackish. From the last mountain we have always found most of the marshes and pools saline or sulphurous. All they could make out was that there were men like us at the lower extremity of the river; that they fabricated stuffs and linens; that they were very numerous, and carried on war with many of the Indian tribes. Seeing that it was useless for us to try to question them, as they could not understand us, we had to fall back on feasting the whole time we stayed at their fort; even so, we could not

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 fait entendre qu'il si retiroit lesté dedans pour trauaillée a leurs champs, qu'il y auoit beaucoup de grain dans les caves en réserve. C'est tout ce qu'il me pouuait donnée de connoissance de leurs uoyage, j'ordonné a mon fils de prendre hauteur le huit de Decembre. Il trouva quarante huit degrés douze minutes, je consulté le 7 au soir auec m² de lamarque sur le party que nous deuions prendre. Il sauoit comme moi qu'il nous restoit peu de chose pour le présent, ce qui nous

go to all the feasts to which we were invited. We remarked that in the plain there are several small forts of from forty to fifty cabins each, constructed in the same manner as the large ones. At present they are uninhabited. We were given to understand that they went there in summer in order to work in the fields and that there was a large reserve of grain in the cellars.

This was all that they were able to tell me of their journey. I instructed my son to take the latitude on the 8th of December. He found it to be forty-eight degrees, twelve minutes. On the evening of the seventh I had a consultation with M. de Lamarque as to what course we should take. He knew, as I did, that we had hardly anything

¹ Obviously inaccurate. As Mr. Warren Upham notes, in his article on 'The Explorations of Verendrye and his Sons,' this latitude would place the village 'in the vicinity of the White Earth river, north-west of the present Fort Berthold Reservation, and about a hundred miles north-west from the mouth of Knife river, where the Mandans were visited by Lewis and Clark, Maximilian and Catlin,' and, as elsewhere noted, this was some eighty miles up the Missouri from the ruins of the old villages, supposedly those visited by La Vérendrye. David Thompson found the position of the lower Mandan village, in 1797, to be in lat. 47° 17′ 22″, long. 101° 14′ 24″.

mestoit dans limpossible d'aler plus loin, la saison trop facheuse pour pouuoir rien entreprendre par dessus tout point d'interprete ny esperance den auoir de l'hiver, nous auions tout lieux de craindre, 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 poudré que je pouuois auoir, ne seroit peut estre pas sufisante pour fournir a tous nos besoins dans le cours de l'hiver, et le peu de marchandises qu'il me restoit, nous pourrions nous trouuer embarrassés auec tout notre monde, nayant plus rien pour nous faire conduire, que le sauuage ne rendoit seruice quautant que lon le payait et dauance, qu'il regardoit les promesses, comme une bien petite resource, 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 faloit partir lessér

left for the present, which made it impossible for us to go farther; the season moreover was too unfavourable to permit us to undertake anything; and above all we had no interpreter nor any chance of getting one during the winter. There was every reason to fear that travelling would become impracticable in the spring owing to floods, and that we should be in danger of arriving too late for the departure of our canoes. The powder I had might not be enough for all our needs through the winter, and there was so little left in the way of goods that we might have trouble with all our people through not being able to pay those who were conducting us, for the savage will only serve for pay, and that he wants in advance—promises do not go far with him. On the other hand there was danger to be apprehended from starting in the most inclement season of the year.

After having weighed all the arguments, we decided that we had best start [on our return], leaving behind two seulem^t deux hommes capable de pouvoir aprendre 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 aprendroit bien plus uitte et nous pourroit donnér par la suitte toutes connaissances m' de lamarque choisit un de ses engagés homme d'esprit [qu'il m'o]ffrit comme estant un des plus capables sachant escrire, je laccepté avec plaisir et lui donnée pour second mon domestique, qui m'estoit cependant fort utile et fort atachés a mon seruice je préferés a m'en priuér à l'hutilité qu'il me pourroit estre par la suitte, 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'ésté prochain, Cela finit pour les deux hommes que je lessois, j'auertis nos cinq assiliboilles,

men only, competent to learn the language quickly, one in the fort where we were, and one in that nearest to it; each being thus left by himself with the savages would learn the language much more quickly and would be able later to give us all information. M. de Lamarque chose one of his hired men, an intelligent fellow whom he offered to me as being one of the most capable, a man able to write; I accepted him with pleasure, and, as second to him, I gave my servant, notwithstanding that he was very useful to me and strongly attached to my service. I preferred to deprive myself of him in consideration of the use he would be later, knowing that he had a quick intelligence, a good memory, a great faculty for learning languages, and was a prudent God-fearing man. I thoroughly instructed both as to all they had to do, and M. de Lamarque promised on his part to send for them in the course of next summer.

Having thus settled matters regarding the two men I was leaving, I notified our five Assiniboin that I wished to

à qui je fis entendre que je voulois partir en peu ce qu'il leur fi grand joye, je leur montré par signe ne pouvant me faire entendre autrement qu'il falloit partir deux auéc deux françois des le lendemain au matin que tout ce qui leur faudroit seroit prést, pour se rendre en diligence au village les auertir de nous atendre, que je partirois quatre jours après eux, que j'alés tout préparér pour mon voyage je donné ensuite conoisance aux mantannes de mon dessein, cela paruë 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 remerciments auéc 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 farinne groulée, pour notre voyage, la nouvelle fut bien tost repanduë dans tout le fort, le 8. au matin, je fis partir deux françois conduit par deux

start in a short time, which greatly delighted them. I indicated to them by signs, having no other means of communication, that two of them were to leave with two Frenchmen the next morning; that everything they needed would be ready, so that they might go in all haste to the village and tell them to wait for us; and that I should leave four days later and was about to prepare everything for my journey. I then informed the Mandan of my intention, which appeared to cause them much regret. I pointed out the two Frenchmen whom I was leaving in my place, and asked them to take good care of them. They thanked me earnestly with many protestations of friendship and fidelity. I gave them to understand in that way that I was not abandoning them. I asked the chief to give me some flour paste for our journey. The news was quickly spread abroad throughout the fort.

On the morning of the 8th I started two Frenchmen, conducted, as I have already mentioned, by two Assiniboin,

assiliboilles comme j'ay déja parlé pour allér auertir le vilage de mon despart, lon maporta de ces farinnes de blé groulée dans la journée bien plus qu'il ne me faloit, je remerciés en donnant quelques eguilles qu'il estime beaucoup, il mauroit chargés cent hommes dans la journée en peu de temps, tout sempressoit de m'en aportér, je fis prendre a tous nos gens ce qu'il en voulure, cela fut fait en tres peu de tems, ayant pourveü a tout ce qui estoit de besoin a tout notre monde, je fis asemblér 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 chéf vn pauillion, luy donné une plaque de plom, que j'auois ornée par les quatre coing auéc 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

to go and notify the village of my departure. The Mandan brought me in the course of the day much more of the prepared flour than I needed. I thanked them and gave them some needles, which they value highly. They would have loaded a hundred men for me very quickly; all were eager to bring it. I got all our people to take as much of it as they wished, which was done in a very short time. Having provided for the wants of all our people, I assembled the chiefs and the principal men of the Mandan and made them a present of powder, ball and a number of small articles, to which they attach much value owing to the need they have of them. To the principal chief I gave a flag and also a lead tablet the four corners of which I had ornamented with ribbon. This was placed in a box to be kept in perpetuity in remembrance of my having taken possession of their land in the King's name. It will be carefully preserved from father to son, better than if I had buried

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'aurois fort souhaité me pouuoir 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 huit au soir tout estoit prèst pour notre despard, que je contois preuenir plustot que je nauois marqué, je tombé malade la nuit du 8. au 9.

it in the ground, where it might have run a risk of being stolen.¹

I made them understand as well as I could that I left them this token in memory of the French who had come into their territory. I should greatly have wished to be able to make myself understood in order to say a number of things which would have been very useful both to them and to us; this, however, was impossible, to their great regret and to mine. I had worked with so much diligence that, by the evening of the 8th, everything was in readiness for our departure, which I was purposing to effect earlier than I had mentioned; but in the night from the 8th to

¹ A procès verbal in the French Archives, quoted by Alback, gives an interesting account of a similar ceremony, at the mouth of the Mississippi, in 1682, when La Salle took possession of Louisiana in the name of the King: 'We prepared a column and cross, and to the said column we affixed the arms of France with this inscription: "Louis le Grand, roi de France et de Navarre, régne, le Neuvième Avril, 1682." The whole party under arms chanted the Te Deum, the Exaudiat, the Domine Salvum fac Regem; and then after a salute of firearms, and cries of Vive le Roi, the column was erected by M. de la Salle, who standing near it said with a loud voice: "In the name of the Most High, Mighty, Invincible and Victorious Prince, Louis the Great, by the grace of God, King of France and of Navarre, Fourteenth of that name, this the 9th day of April, 1682, I, in virtue of the Commission of His Majesty... have taken and do now take in the name of His Majesty, and of his successors to the Crown, possession of this country of Louisiana..." And the said Sieur de la Salle caused to be buried at the foot of a tree a leaden plate, on one side of which were engraved the arms of France, and on the other an inscription in Latin, with the name of the King, the date, the number in the expedition, and the extent of the river which they had navigated.'

je me trouvé en bien peu de temps fort mal, je ne sauois que en pensér, je gardé le lit trois jours, me trouuant mieux le quatrieme je me disposée 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 ramenér a notre fort, les instruisent encore derechef du sujet qui m'obligeoit 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 riuière sil conoisoit un hauteur des terres, en un mot ne rien negliger pour auoir toutes les conoisance possible du païs.

Je partis quoyque malade, dans lesperance que cela ne seroit rien, et que je rétrouverois ma boete au vilage, dans

the 9th I fell ill, and quickly became very bad. I did not know what to think of it. I kept my bed for three days; on the fourth, finding myself better, I arranged to leave the next day. I gave to the two men whom I was leaving behind enough to pay their expenses handsomely and even to hire a guide, if necessary, to conduct them to our fort, instructing them anew as to the cause which obliged me to leave them there; as soon as they were able to make themselves understood they were to lose no opportunity of finding out what was that nation of whites [that had been talked about]; what metal it was that they worked; whether there were any mines they knew about; and what tribe lived higher up the river; whether as they went up the river they knew of a height of land: in a word they were to leave nothing undone to get all possible knowledge of the country.

On the 13th of December I started, to the great regret of all the Mandan. I was still ill, but hoped it would not be anything serious, and that, on arriving at the village,

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 renuoyé, il me temoigna par de grande demonstrations le regret quil auoit de mon despard 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 laissois, il me fit signe quil en aloit prendre un ches luy, je le congedié apres auoit bien fait de remerciments, le soir je mapersue que nous nauions que deux assiliboilles auec nous, il me fire entendre quil en estoit resté un auec nos françois ne uoulant point les abandonner quil ne reuiendroit que dans lesté auèc eux, j'arriuée au vilage le 24. toujours bien mal nous auions esuyés des froit exesiue qui nous causere un grand retardement, l'on me rendit ma boëte, rien ny auoit estés touché il sestoit contenté du sac de lesclaue que l'on me rendit uide, estant un peu reposée,

I should recover my box in which I had some medicine. A chief accompanied us for a league and a half, when I sent him back. He made great demonstration of the regret he felt at my departure, making signs to me not to abandon him, but to return, and he would accompany us. I made him a little present of powder, recommending to him again the two Frenchmen I was leaving behind. He made signs that he would take one of them to live with him, and I dismissed him with many thanks. In the evening I perceived that we had only two Assiniboin with us. They gave me to understand that one had remained behind with our Frenchmen, being unwilling to leave them, and that he would only return in the summer with them.

I arrived at the village on the 24th still very ill. We had experienced excessive cold which caused us great delay. I got back my box; nothing in it had been touched; the fellow had contented himself with my slave's bag, which was

je leurs fis reproche de ce quil mauoit menty au sujet des mantannes de tout ce quil mauoit dit jauois trouué bien peu de verités, lon me repondit quil nauoit pas pretendue parlér des mantannes en disant quil estoit comme nous quil auoit pretenduë parlér de cette nation qui est au bas de la riuiere, qui trauaille le fer, un assiliboille se leua audessue des autres en me disant celuy icy le seul qui ten peux mieux parlér, tu n'a pas bien entendue ce que l'on ta dit, je ne ment point Lesté dernier j'en ai tués un, qui estoit couuert de fer comme j'ay déja dit plusieurs fois, si je nauois pas tués le cheval le premier je naurois pas héu l'homme je luy dis qu'a tu aportés a sa dépouille pour nous faire uoir que tu dis uray, comme je luy uoulois couper la teste j'aperceu des hommes a cheual qui me coupoit le chemin j'éu bien de la peine a me sauuer, je n'auois garde de rien aportér je cheté tout ce que jauois jusque a ma couuerture me sauuend nue, ce que je

returned to me empty. When I had rested a little I reproached them with having lied to me about the Mandan: of all that they had told me I had found very little that was true. They replied that they did not mean the Mandan when they spoke of a nation like us, that they meant the nation that dwells down the river and that works in iron.

One Assiniboin rose above the others and said: 'I am the man best able to talk to you about this. You did not rightly understand what was said to you. I don't tell any lies. Last summer I killed one [of that nation] who was covered with iron as I have already said several times. If I had not killed his horse first I should not have got the man.' I said to him: 'What did you take from his body to let us see that you are speaking the truth?' [He answered] 'As I was about to cut off his head I saw some men on horseback who were intercepting my retreat, and I had much difficulty in escaping. I couldn't bring anything with me; I threw away everything I had even to my blanket,

dis est uraye je te le ferés dire par d'autre qui estoit auec moy, ce printemps prochain, il ne sont point icy actuellement mais tu les uoyra ce que jay dit je te le repete encor, on ne uoye point l'autre cauté de la riuière leaux est salée c'est un païs 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 cheureille, jay ueu de leurs champ de blée on y uoit point de femmes ce que je te dis est sens desein tu en aprendera plus par la suitte, je continués ma route après trois jours de repos, je me rendis a la première montagne le 9 de jenuier ou nous auons séjournée longtemps m' delamarque prit le partis de sen aler deuend, me uoyant toujours bien mal, dans le desein 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

and ran away naked. What I tell you is true, and next spring I can get others who were with me to tell you the same. They are not here now, but you shall see them. What I have told you I repeat: you can't see the other side of the river; the water is salt; it is a mountainous country, with wide spaces between the mountains consisting of fine land; a vast quantity of buffalo large and heavy, some white, others of different colours, many deer and roebuck. I have seen their cornfields; you don't see any women in them. I am telling you this frankly, and you will learn more about it by and by.'

After three days' rest I continued my journey and on the 9th of January got to the first mountain, where we stayed a long time. M. de Lamarque determined to go on ahead, seeing that I was still very ill, and meaning to send me help. He arrived on the 1st of February, I not until the 10th, and very tired and very ill. I got the help he sent me at

à trente-cinq lieues du fort, qui me fit bien plesir en ayant grand besoin, je nay jamais de ma uie enduré tant de misère mal et fatigues que dans ce uoyage la, je me suis trouvée en quinze jour de repos un peu restablie, mr de lamarque atendoit mon arriuée pour prendre son partis a aler au fort de morpas ayant apris quil ny auoit point de uivres, je luy dis que je pencois sa presence estoit bien hutile dans son poste, il se détermina a partir, me demanda a lesser m' son frère, auec une grande partis de ces engagés pour uiures à mon fort se flatent quil y auoit plus desperance de uoir du monde, nous nous sommes trouvée 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 doriginal et biche, nous sommes quarante-deux personnes dans le fort, Cela fait une grande consommation, mr de lamarque est partis le 16 du mois jay reçeu de ses nouuelles

thirty-five leagues from the fort, and great comfort it gave me, for my need was extreme. Never in my life did I endure so much misery, pain and fatigue as in that journey. After a fortnight's rest I found myself rather better. M. de Lamarque was awaiting my arrival in order to decide upon going to fort Maurepas, having learnt that they had run out of provisions. I told him that I thought his presence was very useful at his post, so he determined to start.

Heasked permission to leave his brother with a considerable number of his hired men to board at my fort, thinking that there was more hope of seeing people [Indians]. We were very near being on short commons, but luckily two lodges of savages came to us whom I stopped at the fort and who are helping us along by hunting moose and deer. There are forty-two persons in the fort, and that makes a big consumption [of provisions]. M. de Lamarque left on the 16th of the month, and I received news from him shortly afterwards:

peux de temps après, il me marque quil apreende 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 auec un sauuage pour alér faire la descouuerte du fort du lac 8nipigon, et prendre conoisance des rivières qui tombe dedans, surtout de la riuière blanche, ou j'ay desein d'alér aux retour de nos canots, de la mine qui est dans le lac et de celle qui est dans la rivière blanche de la décharge du lac, en faire le tour, tachés dempêcher les sauuages dalér aux Englois, leurs fesent espérér nôtre arriuée en peux.

he tells me that he greatly fears they will have a hungry time as they see very few savages. 'Here we are,' he says, 'at the 16th of April, and we have not yet seen anybody. God knows what is in store for us!'

I sent off my son the Chevalier this morning, the 16th of April, in company with a savage, to go and explore the region near the fort on Lake Winnipeg ¹ and examine the rivers that flow into that lake, especially the Blanche river, ² whither I propose to go on the return of our canoes, also the mine on the lake and the one on the Blanche river, ³ and to explore the outlet of the lake and make the circuit of it, and try to prevent the savages from going to the English by encouraging them to look for our arrival in a short time.

¹ Fort Maurepas, near the mouth of Winnipeg river.

³ The explorer no doubt has in mind the reports he had of the Indians, as mentioned in his journals of 1729 and 1734. Jeffrey's 1762 map shows 'Iron Island' in Lake Winnipeg, which Tyrrell identifies as Black Island. For an account of iron deposits on this island, see Tyrrell's report in

Geol. Survey of Canada Report, 1898, pp. 60G et seq.

² Rivière Blanche is shown on the 1737 map, and is evidently the Saskatchewan. J. B. Tyrrell, in support of this view, notes that the Saskatchewan is shown on Jeffrey's map of 1762 as White or Hinds river (Geol. Survey of Canada Report, 1898, 89G). On the other hand, Dr. Elliott Coues notes that Sir Alexander Mackenzie and D. W. Harmon refer to the Winnipeg as White river, 'after Rivière Blanche of the French' (New Light, etc. i. 27). See footnote, page 247.

³ The explorer no doubt has in mind the reports he had of the Indians,

J'ay receu une lettre de M^r de lamarque le 23 daurille qui me marque navoir heu encore aucun sauuage quil a pris son partis pour les alér trouvér dans la grande riviere de 8nipigon ou il sont àffaire leurs canots.

Je pense que c'est embandonner de bonheur le poste, les sauuages pouroit de la riviere rouge arivér après leur despard. le 22 du present mois j'ay apris 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 venoit bien du monde, nous en avons grand besoin, nayant rien fait jusqua present.

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

On the 23rd of April I received a letter from M. de Lamarque, telling me that they have not had any savage yet, and that he has decided to go and find them on the great Winnipeg river, where they are making canoes.

That, I think, is abandoning the post too soon; the savages of the Red river might arrive after their departure. On the 22nd of the present month I learnt from a savage that a large band of Assiniboin had gathered at the Lake of the Prairies, and are making canoes in order to go to the English.

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

On the 30th five Assiniboin came to us towards evening to let me know that a lot of people are coming; we have great need of them, having done nothing up to the present.

On the 3rd of May the great band promised dwindled down to a very small one.

Le 10 M² nolan desesperend quil viene davantage du monde ma demandés a partir me representant quil nauoit plus de vivres ne pouuant rester plus longtemps, j'ay fait mon possible pour l'engagér a patientér encore quelque temps estant bien facheux quil partit a leige.

Le voyant desterminée a partir je luy ay permis.

Le même jour 10. au soir il nous est arivé quinse assiliboilles pour nous avertir quil estoit de soixante cabannes que lon leur avoit 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 peu de temps.

Ceux la partis le 20. trois hommes sont 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.

On the 10th M. Nolan, giving up hope of any more coming, asked leave to go, representing that his provisions were exhausted and that he could not stay any longer. I did my best to get him to hold out a little longer, being very sorry that he should go away empty-handed. Seeing him determined to leave, however, I gave him permission.

On the same day, the 10th, in the evening fifteen Assiniboin came to tell us that they belonged to a band of sixty lodges, and that they had been told that we had gone. I sent them back with some tobacco in order that they might press the others to come. They came on the 18th and did their trading in a short time.

These left on the 20th, and three men then came to beg me to defer our departure as thirty lodges would shortly arrive. I sent them off in haste, giving them some tobacco, to tell their people to make haste to come. J'ay descouverd ces jours icy une riviere qui desend dans l'oüést tous les lacs et rivieres que j'ay heu de conoisance vont a la baye du deson mer du nor hor la riviere des mantannes.

J'en prenderé une entiere conoisance cet estée par moymême ou par personne commis de ma part.

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

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

Je leurs promets bien sitost mon fils ariués et les deux

I discovered a few days ago a river flowing west.¹ All the lakes and rivers of which I have so far had knowledge flow into Hudson Bay, the Northern Sea, with the exception of the River of the Mandan. I shall make a thorough survey of it myself this summer or depute some one to do it.

I have held back the departure of my canoes till the 28th of the month, waiting for people [Indians] to come, but to no purpose; only a few have come. They are all putting off coming to see me till the summer. They are so silly that they think we are going to wait for them into the summer, and that it will always be time enough to bring their beaver.

I promise them that, as soon as my son and the two men

¹ It is difficult to find a satisfactory explanation of this statement. La Vérendrye, it will be remembered, was now at fort La Reine, on the Assiniboine. On his way back from the Mandan he may very well have followed the Souris to where, after its great bend down into North Dakota, it turns almost due west for some distance, before recrossing the boundary into Canada. Standing at the turn, a traveller new to the country might readily assume that this was 'a river flowing west.' Or he means the Missouri, which on some of his maps seems to take a great bend toward the west or south-west.

hommes que j'ay laissés au mantannes descamper d'icy au plus vitte.

A M. le M[arqui]s de Beauharnois.

A V[ersai]lles le p[remi]er May 1739.

M.

J'ay recu les lettres que vous m'avés ecrites les 1.6.11. et 28 Octobre de l'année d[ernie]re.

Je n'ay rien a ajouter a ce que je vous ay marqué par ma dêpeche du 23 Avril de l'année d[ernie]re au sujet de L'Entreprise du S. de la Veranderie. Il est a souhaiter que cet off[ici]er puisse detruire les soupçons auxquels il a jusqu'a present donné lieu; Je serois bien aise de voir qu'il eut fait assés de progrès pour cela dans le compte que vous devés me rendre cette année des mouvemens qu'il aura faits.

Il est vray, co[mm]e vous l'observés, que les liaisons que ce même officier a faites avec les nations qui sont etablies

I left with the Mandan arrive, I shall get out of here as quickly as possible.

Maurepas to Beauharnois.

Versailles, May 1, 1739.

Monsieur,

I have received the letters that you wrote me on the 1st, 6th, 11th and 28th of October of last year.

I have nothing to add to what I observed to you, in my despatch of the 23rd of April of last year, regarding the enterprise of the Sieur de la Vérendrye. It is to be hoped that that officer will succeed in removing the suspicions for which, up to the present, he has given cause. I should be glad to find from your report of this year on his movements that he had made sufficient progress to effect this result.

It is true, as you observe, that the connections which he has formed with the tribes whose settlements surround his