

Journey and mission of Father Gabriel Marest to Hudson's bay, on the coast of northern Canada, in the year 1694. Letter to the Reverend Father Thyrso Gonzales, General of the Society of Jesus, at Rome.

QUEBEC, october, 1695.

WE sailed from Quebec with two ships and three hundred sailors, besides some soldiers, to capture the fort which the english occupied on Hudson's bay. Setting out on the tenth of august, 1694, we arrived here on the twenty-fourth of september. This was surely the effect of a vow; for toward the end of our voyage meeting head-winds, the excessive cold of winter being close at hand, and our supply of water failing, we had recourse to St. Anne,—who is especially revered by the Canadians as their advocate with God,—and laid ourselves under a vow to her; and three days thereafter we landed.

During this whole voyage I was occupied in celebrating mass when possible, often giving pious exhortations; in reading prayers publicly every day, morning and evening; and in hearing the confessions of many.

Two streams empty into Hudson's bay at no great distance from each other—one called Bourbon, the other ste. Thérèse. Upon the latter the english fort is situated; into this the smaller of our ships was brought for the winter, while the larger found