

Letter from Father Gabriel Marest, Missionary  
of the Society of Jesus, to Father de Lam-  
berville of the same Society, Procura-  
tor of the Mission of Canada.

MY REVEREND FATHER,  
*The peace of Our Lord.*

It is rather late to ask me for news of Hudson's bay. I was in far better condition to tell you of it when I went back to France on my return from the prisons of Plimouth. All that I can do now is to send you an extract from the little Journal which I wrote at that time, and of which I have kept a copy. It begins with our departure from Quebec, and ends with the return of the two vessels which carried us to that bay. Nevertheless, first allow me to inform you of what I had learned at Quebec—both in regard to the two Jesuits who had made the same voyage before me, and concerning the first discovery of Hudson's bay.

It is already more than two centuries since Navigators of various Nations undertook to open a new way to China and Japan by the North; and yet none of them have succeeded, God having placed in their way an invincible barrier in the icebergs that are found in these seas. It was with the same design that in 1611 the famous Hudson, an Englishman, penetrated 500 leagues and more farther north than the others, to the great bay that to-day bears his