

when as yet I was not well informed of what concerns the hurons. I said that there were no other christian hurons than those of Lorette. In fact, seven years ago there were no others; but father de La Richardie found means to gather together at detroit The dispersed hurons, all of whom he converted. The mission numbers six hundred christians. Detroit, at the forty-second degree of Latitude, is situated between Lake huron, and Lake hérié. This stretch of country is the Finest in canada; there is scarcely any winter, and all kinds of fruit grow there as well as they do in france. There is question of Building a town there. Seventy french families are already on the spot, and there is a fort and garrison of which the reverend recollet fathers are chaplains.⁴⁵ Father de gonor is at The mission of Lorette, but he is subject to frequent attacks of sickness. Father Aulneau, as robust as he is courageous, has set out for The western sea; he will arrive there only next summer. The first missionary who lands from france will go to keep Him company, otherwise he would not be able to remain there Long alone, as he will be four hundred Leagues distant from father Guignas, who is his nearest neighbor. I had a pretty Long conversation with Monsieur La Verandrie, who is in command of The three most western forts.⁴⁶ I understood from the interview that not much reliance can be placed on what he says concerning White, bearded savages. The western sea would have been discovered long ago if people had wished It. Monsieur The Count de Maurepas is right when he says that The officials in canada are looking not for The western sea but for The sea of beaver. It is to be hoped that father