

occupy all the land to the south of it. The lands on the remaining sides are taken up by the Kristinaux, who occupy not only all the northern part as far as the sea; but all the immense stretch of country beginning at the lake of the woods and extending far beyond lake ouinipignon also belongs to them. Some time about the feast of all saints, if it be the will of our good Lord, I intend, with as many of the french as are willing to encounter the same dangers, to join the Assiniboels, who start every year, just as soon as the streams are frozen over, for the country of the kaotiouak or Autelsipounes to procure their supply of indian corn. It is to evangelize these tribes that my Superiors send me here. From lake Ouinipignon to their country the distance is computed to be two hundred and fifty leagues, but as the party engage in the hunt as they advance, in all likelihood we shall go over more than four hundred. If we manage to reach there in season, I shall not be satisfied with visiting the first villages of the Koatiousak, but shall push on as far as I can along the shores of the river where they dwell and where the kristinaux say they have seen seals. This would be a sure sign that they are not very far from the sea. Toward the middle of March, I shall leave this place to return to the shores of ouinipignon. I omitted to tell you, my Reverend Father, that fort St. Charles, according to Monsieur de la Jesmeraye,⁴⁰ ensign of the detachment of the marine quartered in this country, is situated at 48 degrees 5 minutes. This is all the information, my reverend father, I am able to give you at present, concerning this wretched country. It may be that I have not expressed myself correctly, but you will pardon me I am sure. In any case, I do