

have that wherein we wintered; ffor whatever a man could desire was to be had in great plenty; viz. staggs, fishes in abundance, & all sort of meat, corne enough. Those of the 2 nations would not come wth us, but turned back to their nation. We neverthesse put ourselves in hazard, for our curiosity, of stay 2 or 3 years among that nation. We ventured, for that we understand some of their idiome & trusted to that.

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We weare 4 moneths in our voyage wthout doeing any thing but goe from river to river. We mett several sorts of people. We conversed wth them, being long time in alliance wth them. By the persuasion of som of them we went into y^e great river that divides itselfe in 2, where the hurrons wth some Ottanake & the wild men that had warrs wth them had retired.¹ There is not great difference in their language, as we weare told. This nation have warrs against those of [the] forked river. It is so called because it has 2 branches, the one toward the west, the other toward the South, w^{ch} we believe runns towards Mexico, by the tokens they gave us.² Being among these people, they told us the prisoners they take tells them that they [the prisoners] have warrs against a nation, against men that build great cabbans & have great beards & had such knives as we have had. Moreover they shewed a Decad of beads & guilded pearls that they have had from that people, w^{ch} made us believe they weare Europeans. They shewed one of that nation that was taken the yeare before. We un-

¹ A large party of Hurons and Ottawas, while being driven before the storm of Iroquois wrath, had, about five years before Radisson's visit, settled on an island in the Mississippi river, above Lake Pepin, but had finally proceeded up the Chippewa river to its source.—Ed.

² Clearly the Mississippi. The branch "toward the west" may have been the Iowa. It is not likely that our travelers descended to the mouth of the Missouri, or the great river would have made such an impression upon Radisson that he would have described his journey thither in detail. Again, his authority as to the western branch may have been but hearsay. But the statement is direct, that they saw and "went into ye great river."—Ed.