

gate, there may be found a great River which flows to the West, and discharges its waters into the South Sea. Independently of even that discovery (which I believe to be easier by that route than by the North),<sup>1</sup> I cannot doubt, in view of the statements which I have obtained from many quarters, and which agree very well, that in the effort to penetrate as far as the source of the Missouri will be found goods wherewith to compensate the expenses and hardships which such an Enterprise demands.

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1722: SPEECHES OF THE FOXES AT A COUNCIL HELD AT  
THE HOUSE OF MONSIEUR DE MONTIGNY, IN THE PRESENCE  
OF THE MISSIONARY, SEPT. 6, 1722.

[Translated from a document in archives of Province of Quebec,  
copied from Paris archives.]

Ouashala speaks: "I enter your house, my father, in great alarm, suspecting that the war I am making against the Illinois has greatly displeased you, since you were entirely opposed to it. But, my father, I was so angry with them for their cruelty in burning my nephew Minchilay,—whose alliance to the principal chiefs of the Sakis has led that tribe to side with us,—that I could think of nothing except going to avenge this Minchilay. I had resolved, on setting out, to destroy their village completely and to spare no lives whatever. I pressed them very hard, and it depended only upon myself to carry out my project fully; for, finding themselves on the verge of destruction, reduced by hunger, and deprived of all means of getting water, so that they were beginning to die of thirst, they asked for a parley. I assembled all my people to try to persuade them to listen; I had great difficulty in obtaining this from them, but I finally prevailed. Several Illinois chiefs, after being told that they could come,

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<sup>1</sup> A reference to the then frequent attempts to reach the Pacific Ocean by Hudson Bay and a supposed "Northwest Passage."—Ed.