

the whole course of the river from the height of land beyond Lake Superior to above California. The savages have traced on the map the upper portion of the Mississippi river which takes its rise to the South of Lake Ouinipigou,¹ and according to the Sieur de l'Isle's map the river Rio Colorado would take its rise about the same Spot.

I observed with the Sieur Chaussegros that this country is traversed by two great rivers which take their rise about the middle: one flows toward the East which is the St. Lawrence, the other to the south which is the Mississippi. There would remain to the west an Extent of territory from Seven to eight hundred leagues in width, without any large river in it. This would be contrary to all the knowledge we have of countries that are known in the world; where in so vast an Area there is always some great river that traverses it; which leads me to think that the savages may tell the truth, for it is not natural that in so vast an Extent there should not be a great river; and it seems that the river of which the Savages speak discharges into the southern sea. We know the rivers indicated on the Sieur de l'Isle's map and according to the course that the Savages give to the river of the west, it flows to the Entrance recently discovered by Martin Daguilar, where we know of no other river above or to the north.

I have the honor to be with very profound respect, Monseigneur, Your very humble and very obedient Servant,

BEUHARNOIS

Quebec, October 15th, 1730.

¹ Lake Winnipeg.—Ed.