

and that, for his part, he wanted to kill enough of them to feed his village.

The Sieur de la Verendrye Writes me on the 2nd and 12th of May last, that he went to fort La Reine<sup>1</sup> on the 13th of October of last year; That in passing by Tékamamouiouenne<sup>2</sup> he found the savages singing war-songs while awaiting him to go and strike the Scioux; That on his arrival at Lac des Bois (Lake of the Woods), he found a great many Monsonis and Christinaux assembled there with the same object; That they told him he must not be surprised at their going to strike the Scioux, and that all the nations of the Interior had received word to come to the rendezvous in the prairies in the month of December last; That they did not think he would oppose their design, as they were going to avenge French blood and their Chiefs that had Been killed; That he answered them he Was surprised at this violent measure contrary to the promise they had given him to Take no steps for a war except in accordance with my will, all the more so as I Was disposed to pardon the Scioux in consequence of the petition they had presented and caused to be presented to me; That this would disturb the land afresh and bar the road to the French, and Finally, as the son of one of their great Chiefs was a Captive in that Nation, and the Sieur Marin had promised him to redeem him, it would not be the way to withdraw him from their hands if they went to strike Them. Notwithstanding all these representations to which he added presents, he could not succeed in Preventing them from striking the blow which I had the honor of Reporting to you, and which, from what that officer writes me, will keep up that war owing to their losing two influential Chiefs: That they had also intended to

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<sup>1</sup>Fort La Reine was built by La Vérendrye, Oct. 3, 1738, at Portage la Prairie on Assiniboine River, above the present Fort Garry. From this post the expeditions set forth that reached the Mandan, and obtained the first view of the Rocky Mountains. See Thwaites, *Rocky Mountain Exploration* (New York, 1904), pp. 29-36.

<sup>2</sup>La Vérendrye's post St. Pierre, on Rainy Lake, was often called Tekamamouiouen, from the native word for that body of water.—ED.