

This post [Sea of the West] has been leased for eight thousand francs; the commandant is its farmer and he has a quarter interest in this post. The savages who come there to trade are the Cristinaux and the Assiniboels;³⁷ these two nations form each a dozen villages of two hundred and fifty men, each one supporting the other. In an ordinary year there are made up at this post three to four hundred packages of beaver, fisher-fox, marten, otter, lynx, wolverine, beech-marten, and foxes. One must count more than fifty to sixty Indian slaves or panis of *Jatihilinine*, a nation situated on the Missouri,³⁸ who play in America the role of the negroes in Europe. It is only at this post that the traffic in these slaves occurs.

The *post of the Sea of the West* merits special attention for two reasons: the first is that it is the nearest of all to the

cation be correct, Bougainville omits mention of the post in the Rocky Mountains on the site of the modern Calgary, built (1751) by a party sent out by Niverville. This latter fort, called La Jonquière, was destroyed before Bougainville wrote. Traces of it were, however, to be seen in 1875, when a captain of the Canadian mounted police built a blockhouse on this site.—Ed.

³⁷ For these tribes see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvi, p. 189.—Ed.

³⁸ It would appear that these were the Blackfeet Indians, a large tribe of Algonquian origin that roved between the upper Missouri and the Saskatchewan. According to St. Pierre's account (see *Canadian Archives*, 1886, p. clxiii), they were the tribe surrounding Fort La Jonquière, and in perpetual warfare with the Assiniboin. Alexander Henry the elder speaks of seeing Blackfeet slaves among the Assiniboin, but says that the men were never enslaved, only the women and children. He speaks, likewise, of the indignity with which these slaves were treated, contrary to the usual custom among Indians; *Henry's Travels*, p. 312. Alexander Henry, the younger, constantly speaks of the Blackfeet as "Slaves", to the confusion of his editor—Elliott Coues, *New Light on the Early History of the Greater Northwest* (New York, 1897), p. 523. The Blackfeet were among the fiercest of the Northwestern tribes. It was they who attacked Meriwether Lewis's party on Maria River in 1806, and not until nearly thirty years thereafter did the Americans succeed in establishing trading stations among them. Consult on this tribe *Early Western Travels*, especially "Maximilian's Voyage," vols. xxii-xxv.—Ed.