

establishments of the English on Hudson bay, and that it is from here that their movements can be watched; the second is that it is from this post that the Western sea may be discovered; but in order to make this discovery it is necessary that the voyageurs abandon their individual interests.

Voyage of La Véranderie. The one who most advanced this discovery was the Sieur de la Véranderie;³⁹ he went from fort la Reine to reach the Missouri, and encountered first on that river the *Mandannes* or *Blancs Barbus* to the number of seven villages entrenched in forts of staked pickets with a moat.⁴⁰ Then the *Kinongewiniris* or the *Brochets*⁴¹ to the number of three villages; at the upper part of the river he found the *Mahantas* forming also three villages, and along the Missouri as he descended it as far as the mouth of the river Wabiek or à la Coquille, twenty-three villages of Panis.⁴²

³⁹ For this officer see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xvii, p. 103. His explorations and voyages in the Northwest extended from 1731-43. In 1748 he was promoted to the grade of captain and given the cross of St. Louis; but while preparing to return to his Western explorations he died Dec. 6, 1749.—Ed.

⁴⁰ The first journey that La Vérendrye made overland from Fort La Reine, on Assiniboin River, was during the winter of 1738-39. He found the Mandan in six village forts on the Missouri River, extending from Heart River northward. See journal in *Canadian Archives*, 1889, pp. 2-25; see also Thwaites, *Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* (New York, 1904), index, for the sites of the old Mandan villages. The sons of La Vérendrye returned to the Mandan in 1742, and pursued thence their course to the Rocky Mountains. Bougainville is evidently speaking of the two separate journeys as though they were one.—Ed.

⁴¹ Brochet means Pike, and therefore some writers have identified this tribe with the Assiniboin who called themselves Hohay (Fish catchers). However, the explorers had long been familiar with the Assiniboin and were not likely to have given them two names. From the location, these would appear to have been the Minitaree, of Hidatsa origin; see "Maximilian's Travels" in *Early Western Travels*, xxiii, pp. 377-385.—Ed.

⁴² This passage is difficult of interpretation. The Mahantas may have been the Maha, or Omaha, a Siouan tribe; but they are not known to