

Suitable Presents of Indian Goods must be sent with the Commissioners and also goods to procure Provisions in the Fall and for the winter and to bring the party back which probably may require the addition of a third Canoe. The value of the Presents and Goods may be estimated at Five to Six hundred Pounds Currency for the Commissioners on the part of His Majesty. And as the Indians who inhabit the higher parts of the Mississippi are very hostile to one another frequently out in War Parties and do not then discriminate Friend from Foe; besides it being natural to suppose that they will see with Jealousy other People than their usual Traders among them and on a very different business, it may be necessary to send them Belts to acquaint them with the Business and to desire that they refrain from War whilst it is going on.

I shall now take a view of the Mississippi from the Falls of St. Anthony to its source as generally known to the Traders, the distance is estimated at 300 Leagues, which I am inclined to consider exaggerated, probably it may be 200 Leagues by Water. After leaving the Falls & proceeding upwards the first River you meet with which comes from the west and has the appearance of being a chief Branch of the Mississippi is called Crowwing River; in the Chippewa Tongue *Cocakiwing Scipi* and is computed to be 100 Leagues from the Falls. I was at this River in winter 1771-2, but I do not conceive the distance to be so great.

The next remarkable place is on the east side & the further Distance of 100 Leagues by similar computation and is called Sandy River which is the Route coming from the Southwest end, or Fond du Lac Superior to enter the Mississippi; proceeding upwards to the extent of 100 Leagues more by vulgar estimation many Rivulets are met with on both sides until you arrive at Lac de Sang Lue or Leech Lake which has always been considered the greatest source of the Mississippi; they say it is 10 Leagues Long and from 3 to 4 Broad.

Now the fittest place in my Judgment for passing the Winter is at the Crowwing River or some other place nearer to the Falls