

the English to entice his negro from him. I left and passed the night at the foot of Rapide Plat.

The 9th of November I arrived at Montréal, where I rested two days; I went down to Quebec to render an account of my voyage to Monsieur the marquis de La Jonquière. I have been fortunate enough, notwithstanding the fatigues of the campaign and the bad fare and the number of sick, not to lose but one man, who was drowned in the shipwreck of Monsieur de Joncaire.

According to the estimate of Père Bonnecamp, Jesuit and expert mathematician who gave much attention to the route, the journey was 1200 leagues; according to my estimate and that of Messieurs the officers of the detachment it was longer. All that I can say is that the tribes of those localities are very badly disposed toward the French and entirely devoted to the English. I do not know by what means they can be brought back. If force is employed they will be notified and will take to flight. They have a great refuge among the Testes plates from whom they are not so very far away. If we send to them for trade, our traders can never give our merchandise at English prices on account of the costs that they are obliged to incur. Besides I think it would be dangerous to make conditions easier for those who inhabit the Beautiful River than for those of the posts of Détroit, Miamis, and others. It would depopulate our ancient posts and perpetuate the tribes on the Beautiful River, which are convenient to the English governments.

Moreover they have sent there in recent years, but there were less English there then, and they were not accredited as they are today, and if the French traders would speak the truth they would admit that their profits arise only from the trade that they carry on with the English by the exchange of peltries. Wildcat, otter and fisher (pekan) are very cheap in England, and with us they are very high, also in that vicinity these are the only peltries, and there is no beaver. This latter is given in exchange to the English.