

in order at the post of La Baye, he will instruct the Sieur Desjordy Villebon to take command during his absence, after which he will go to the Sioux and make every effort to induce them to make peace with the Cristinos and to send back to the Sieur de St. Pierre the son of a Cristinos Chief whom they hold captive. He will correspond with the Sieur de St. Pierre on the subject.

The said Sieur Marin will select the site that may appear to him most suitable for the erection of a stone fort, in which he will have the necessary lodgings built for his garrison and for the voyageurs who will trade with the Sioux. He will distribute to the latter the presents I have entrusted him with on the King's account. I have also given him some medals wherewith to decorate the chiefs of that nation who may be the most influential and the most zealous in favor of the French.

I have not confined myself to the Sioux establishment. I have also ordered the Sieur Marin to start from that post, leaving the command thereof, as soon as he shall have put it in good order, to such person as he may deem suitable, in order to go to the upper Missisipi, and as far as its source, both to open trade with the nations dwelling there, and to discover the mines, placers, and minerals that may exist there. It is certain that the trade we might carry on with those nations would be very advantageous, and might hereafter become very considerable, all the more so that, in order to save expense in the conveyance of the furs, it would be easy to send them to France via Louisiana.

The said Sieur Marin will at the same time ascertain from the Savages inhabiting the upper portion of the Missisipi whether they have any knowledge of the western sea and of the means to be taken to penetrate thither.

I have likewise charged him to go or send to the source of the Missouri, and to the height of land of the same to endeavor to find a river flowing towards the west, whereby we may perhaps succeed in discovering the said Western sea.

You will observe, Monseigneur, that all the orders I have