

stopping here, the Canadians proposed to Sieur Fabry that a party should go to find the Mentos. Mallet the elder, being the one who seemed to have the best idea, and being the only hunter, was charged with this commission; and Philippe Robitaille, Sergeant Champart and an engagé named La Grandeur were detailed to go with him. Mallet was charged with a present for the chief, and was told to engage one of the prominent men of the village to come to the camp to receive the message of the great chief of the French, and to bring horses to trade. If the Indians hesitated to come, Mallet was to leave two Frenchmen in the village as hostages. Ten days were asked, and Fabry says he allowed twelve, for the return of the party, which started from camp on the morning of the 13th. At noon, fell the first snow of the winter; and on the 14th there was a little more. On the 16th, taking advantage of a slight rise of water, Fabry hastily moved camp a league further up the river, to a low point which had been selected before Mallet's departure, as a convenient place for wood and a hunting camp.

This locality, the principal camp and depot of the expedition thereafter, was near the southwestern corner of the Seminole Nation, about 21 miles up the Canadian river from Little river. It was probably a point somewhat above, if not that directly opposite, the mouth of Sand creek. Elsewhere in his journal, ~~which he mentions~~ (Or. Fr., VI, 486) Fabry mentions it as 30 leagues below the ~~mouth of the~~ <sup>[eastern] extremity of the</sup> Grand Prairies. The separate days' journeys given by Fabry, figure up a little more than 49 leagues as the distance which his party had travelled up the Canadian river, to this camp; but Margry refers<sup>1</sup>

*Footnote* \*Loc. cit., page 484, footnote E.

to "Sieur Fabry's instruction to the voyageurs, of the 2nd April, 1743 [meaning 1742], on the river Saint-Andrew, at 52 leagues from its mouth." The river at this place was 240 paces wide, and all its water passed in one channel but 20 paces wide and two feet deep at the side of the bank. A pirogue served as a bridge, to cross to the flats. "One may judge", wrote Fabry, "how much water it has in the places where it has seven to eight channels which meander in the flats".

Here, on the 17th and 18th, they made a felling of trees and fortified themselves, to await the Mentos, if Mallet could find them.

Mallet's party returned on the 19th, having gone far enough to see three smokes that he supposed proceeded from the Mento village. Being then five days out, and fearing that if he went there he would not get back within the ten days which he had asked for the trip, (the negotia-



tions in the village itself would have taken some time), he returned and reported progress. ~~He had seen the fires~~

On the 21st, he was ~~again~~ sent again, "La Rose" (i.e., Beslot) being substituted this time in the place of Robitaille, and no time being set for the return. On the 26th (Easter day), 27th and 28th, the river rose about six inches each day and fell as much at evening.

"On the 31st, Mallet returned. He reported that he had been near the place where he had seen the fires, he observed others further back, which did not seem to him very far distant, that he had gone there without being able to find them; that, in short, he had walked and fasted a great deal without seeing anything but abandoned villages, and that <sup>in</sup> his route he had crossed six rivers, one of which [doubtless Red river, to or beyond which the distance travelled would have taken him] was a great one".

At the failure of this second attempt to find the Mentos, Sieur Fabry was greatly mortified, and, as usual, he was inclined to lay all the blame on Mallet, of whom he sarcastically said that he had given him, on request, a compass, which had only served to turn him round in the woods a little more than he would have been without it, as he did not understand its use. The commander's pride, however, was now sufficiently humbled

(Continued on page 68.)



bled to receive from his associates, though subordinates, the counsels which he had previously prohibited. He assembled the four Canadians and the sergeant, admitted that he had abandoned all hope of such a rise of the waters as would enable them to navigate the Canadian to the supposed "portage" near Santa Fe, <sup>on the 1st of April</sup> and told them, in the desperation of the situation, that they knew in what manner they thought it was necessary to proceed ~~to~~ in order to accomplish the journey, and that on their advise he would take a course. The Canadians, who had previously made the journey <sup>(a footnote in Morphy's narrative is)</sup> maintained that, from the camp in which ~~they~~ they then were, but 150 leagues of road remained to be traversed; they offered to take him to Santa Fe in less than 22 days, however bad a walker he was, and to carry for him all his baggage, and in this offer concerning which Fabry's journal is silent, the soldiers also joined.

On the 2nd of April they reassembled. The elder Mallet believed that they need not yet despair of being able to ascend the river by boat; that when May arrived they could make elm-bark canoes of very light draft, with which they could ascend the river with but slight depth of water. His brother suggested sending to the Black Pawnees to try and get horses. Old Philippe and La Rose were willing to follow whatever plan it might be desired to take, --by land or by water. The sergeant said "that if it was a question of walking, the soldiers could carry only their arms and a few provisions; that even if there were ~~one~~ not in condition for marching,\* that as for the rest, the detachment was ready to follow Sieur Fabry."

Sieur Fabry now gave his own views at some length, which, according to his journal were as follows: He "replied to them that the course which Mallet the elder had proposed, of awaiting the month of May to make canoes, did not seem expedient; moreover, if the river should have water, he could ascend it with his pirogues without the aid of canoes; that if it did not rise, it would be necessary to ~~pull~~ <sup>pull</sup> the canoes as well as the pirogues, since, when they [the four Canadians in their <sup>voyage of 1840</sup> ~~travels~~] had descended 40 leagues on the lower part of the river with two small <sup>light</sup> canoes, ~~as alleged~~, they had <sup>pull</sup> ~~dragged~~ in several places; that therefore, on the upper part of the river, it would be necessary to <sup>pull</sup> ~~drag~~ from morning till evening, with less water and heavier canoes; that supposing, even, that they were not obliged to <sup>pull</sup> ~~drag~~, it would take more than three months to make 300 leagues in a river which is a torrent when it rises and which would not keep its water half of that time, since he had found it low when he had embarked on it on the 20th of June; that moreover he thought, and others had often told him, that these bark canoes required much care, that they were spoiled in

*9th will appear below, that there was a little later, at least and very likely at this time - one soldier ~~who was put in~~ condition for mending*

*Pierre Rombel*



the sun and were quickly worn out by dragging on the sand; that ~~the~~  
~~undoubtedly~~ one would think that the soldiers, being wholly unaccustomed  
to managing these canoes, they, somebody every day, would split some of  
them; that boating in hot weather, it would be impossible to protect  
them from the sun; that ~~having to be dragged~~ <sup>having to be dragged</sup> ~~which would not~~

*Footnote* \*A footnote, however, reminds us that ~~the~~ "Canoes of this sort are  
not dragged at all, but two men carry them easily."

fail to happen— they would not last long, and that then one would  
find himself on the prairies where bark for making others would be  
lacking, one would see himself reduced to severe extremities".

"Mallet", continues Fabry's journal, "being wholly unable to object  
to all these reasons, his proposition was rejected." But on this, a  
footnote to the journal as presented in Margry's Origines, comments as  
follows: "Mallet and his associates, having only their experience to  
oppose to the reasons of Sieur Fabry, could not fail of being put in  
bad humor, since, from <sup>that time</sup> ~~then~~, he [Fabry] had resolved to give up, seeing  
that he could not arrive with the train of an ambassador, alleging  
that he had order to ascend the river in conveyance and not to repair  
~~thither~~ [to Santa Fe] except in decent manner".

With equal ease, Fabry disposed of the proposition of the younger  
Mallet. He sneeringly submitted that after a failure to find the  
Mentos "at two paces from the camp", it would not be natural to go to  
~~thither~~ look for the Black Pawnees, who were six times as far away  
from them".

As for going afoot, Fabry declared that would be his last resource;  
and in that case he would leave ~~XXXX~~ everything he had brought with  
him; when he had been given soldiers, it had of course been thought  
they could make a few leagues afoot, if they couldn't <sup>proc</sup> get horses in  
the country through which they were to go, but a distance so long as  
remained to be travelled was far beyond their strength, especially  
in the heated season. He reminded them that the journey of 1739-'40  
had not been made afoot.

Stating that no other course remained but to <sup>obtain</sup> procure horses, Sieur  
Fabry now announced his attention to go, <sup>in light pirogues</sup> ~~down to the~~  
~~East of the Arkansas~~ <sup>indians</sup> ~~to seek them~~; and if unable to get them from  
these Indians, among whom they were still rare, he would find there  
(at the Post of the Arkansas, near mouth of the Arkansas river) some  
horses of the King, with which he could convey goods to the Cadodaquios,  
where <sup>he</sup> could buy them cheap. He said ~~he~~ that by going north from the  
Caddoes he could not fail to strike the river ~~at the mouth~~  
on which the expedition ~~was~~ now had its camp, and with Caddo guides he  
could return by way of their allies, the Mentos, if on his route. ~~He~~

He started on the 4th of April, taking with him Robitaille, Beslot,



Champart, La Grandeur and Pantalou. He tells us that he would have liked to take also the ~~elder~~ Mallet, but deemed it necessary to leave him, <sup>as the only man sure on the hunt,</sup> to provide meat for the camp; and Mallet was not in rugged health. The voyageurs had agreed only to wait three months for his return, which seemed ample for the circuit he proposed to make; but in the letter of instructions which he left for them (and which ~~XXX~~ Corporal Grappe was not to show to the Mallet brothers till four days after his departure), he ordered them to wait for him ~~XXXX/XXX~~ till the ~~1st~~ 1st of August, or practically four months; after which, if they continued, they were not to take the military detachment with them. In this letter also he willed, <sup>in case of his death,</sup> as he tells us, to the Mallet brothers, and to Philippe and La Rose, one of the ~~personal property which he had brought along on the expedition, directing that all the rest be delivered to Corporal Grappe, ~~XXXX~~ for conveyance to New Orleans. He also gave a written order to the Corporal to return thence to the Post of the Arkansas, in case of accident to him or his failure to return by August 1st; ~~XXXX~~ and the Mallet brothers having said that they did not wish ever to present themselves before Bienville if the expedition failed, he made them pledge, before the entire company, that in any such case they would at least see the soldiers safely back to the Forks of the Arkansas, with canoe and provisions.~~

Impeded in some places by low water, Fabry did not reach the Post of the Arkansas till April 26th. Here he dismissed Pierre Roussel, a soldier, ~~XXXX~~ incapacitated ~~XXXX~~ by the reappearance of an old disease of the leg, ~~XXXX~~ and took in his place a man named Bellegarde.\* Here also he collected

\*Here named for the first time as a member of the ~~XXXX~~ expedition. Fabry seems to have brought him down from the camp of the Canadian, to thus exchange him, ~~XXXX~~ and a sixth man to his ~~XXXX~~ escort.

five of the horses of the King. He could buy no additional horses from the Arkansa nation, as "they would have cost him more dear than slaves"; but he traded for some saddles with these Indians. With two guides who promised to take him there in ten days, ~~XXXX~~ <sup>May 4th</sup> he started for Cadodaquios, <sup>rejoining</sup> which, he tells us, made him hopeful of ~~XXXX~~ his company on the Canadian by the end of May, and <sup>of them</sup> to start <sup>immediately</sup> for Santa Fe, where he calculated to arrive in less than 25 days' journey. But, alas for his hopes, <sup>he</sup> had to give up on the 5th, owing to recent floods which had made the roads impassable. Thus detained till the 21st, he then made a new start, guided by two Arkansa Indians who had previously been over the route. They went and crossed Red river and wandered for seventeen days beyond it in the country between the Yatasés and the Caddoes, without finding sign of a trail of any nation. They had borne far too much to the south, and too little to the west.

Foot-  
note

in Fabry's  
Journal



Fabry tried to induce them to recover the route; but they were so dispirited that in spite of anything he could offer them, they gave up, after 45 days of travel through frightful regions, ~~Vdd//Gdx/Vadk/Xb~~  
~~Xyd/Xf/Adkd/Vdsk/oa/Xde/SDH/0f/Sdly~~ having lost three horses from fatigue and the heat, compelling Fabry to abandon his own merchandise in the forest in order to save that of the King, the latter also ~~losing~~<sup>trade-</sup> losing nine <sup>guns</sup> and seven tomahawks. They got back to the Arkansas Post on the 5th of July!

But as for the redoubtable Fabry, "An obstacle so unforeseen", he tells us, "did not in the least disconcert him". Two days after his return to the post, he sent ~~Sergeant Champart~~ <sup>Sergeant Champart</sup> with ~~old Philippe~~ <sup>old Philippe</sup> and two <sup>Indian</sup> guides (three other <sup>such</sup> ~~going~~ <sup>going</sup> with them voluntarily), to ~~give~~<sup>give</sup> the camp on Canadian river <sup>notice</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> his detention. He urged them to hasten, and the Indians promised to take <sup>them</sup> ~~the~~ ~~expedition~~ through to the ~~Cadodaquios~~ <sup>Cadodaquios</sup> in eight days, whence there <sup>would</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~time~~ enough left to reach the Canadian river party before its waiting time had expired, so that ~~the sergeant~~ <sup>the sergeant</sup> ~~could see~~ that Fabry's instructions were carried out. But misfortune still dogged the footsteps of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Sieur~~ <sup>Sieur</sup> Fabry's expedition; Champart fell ill on the road, having an abscess on the knee ("genouil"), and did not reach the Cadodaquios till July 25th.

Here Champart and Philippe seem to have obtained some additional horses, with the <sup>previous</sup> ~~understanding~~ <sup>understanding</sup> that <sup>that he</sup> ~~Sieur~~ <sup>Sieur</sup> Fabry was to follow <sup>them</sup> ~~them~~ shortly, and procure others. Though they were now too late to reach ~~the~~ ~~expedition~~ camp by August 1st, they obtained guides ~~for~~ and pushed on from Cadodaquios toward <sup>the Forks of the Arkansas</sup> ~~the~~ ~~mouth~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~river~~. <sup>Thinking</sup> ~~that~~ ~~low~~ ~~water~~ ~~would~~ ~~prevent~~ ~~the~~ ~~departure~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~men~~ ~~thence~~ <sup>by boat,</sup> and that if <sup>these</sup> ~~they~~ abandoned the merchandise and went down the river by land, <sup>they</sup> ~~could~~ intercept them at the Forks ~~of the river~~.

Meanwhile the Mallet brothers, having heard nothing of Fabry, and the time for his return having nearly elapsed, determined to go on to Santa Fe on their own account. They inventoried Fabry's merchandise and delivered it to Corporal Grappe, as they had been instructed to do, taking his receipt for it, taking with them only some presents for an Indian nation which they ~~additionally~~ <sup>they</sup> expected to meet; and arranged for the return of the troops to New Orleans, as ~~was~~ <sup>they</sup> instructed. <sup>Of the presents</sup> ~~selected to take with them, they left~~ <sup>a memorandum, dated July 31st.</sup>

On the last day of July <sup>they</sup> wrote a letter to Bienville and Salmon, claiming that the failure of the expedition was the fault of Fabry, against whose management of the enterprise they made <sup>substantially</sup> ~~the~~ ~~four~~ ~~following~~ ~~points~~ ~~accusations~~:

1. - That he had been unwilling to trade to the Osages for their horses, certain considerations which they indicated to him, in wishing more for the horses or nothing at all.
2. - That they (the Mallet brothers) had proposed that one of them



