

the rock into the water, and there was nothing ever said of it after.<sup>1</sup> 1672-3.

When these rapids are passed, you enter a fine river, which calmly rolls its waters through a charming country. The climate is very mild, the forests are diversified with agreeable prairies, and wild animals of all kinds are found there in thousands, and especially those Illinois oxen that bear wool.<sup>2</sup> Several small rivers empty into Fox River and are covered with wild rice,<sup>3</sup> which during the autumn attracts a prodigious quantity of game. The vines with which the woods are studded produced without cultivation quite large bunches; plums, apples, and other fruit, although wild, are not disagreeable to the taste, and would be excellent were they cultivated.

Striking southward you enter the country of the Mascoutins, set down on some of our maps under the name of *Terre de Feu*, *Land of Fire*. The Mascoutins are also called by some geographers the Fire Nation. An error based on an equivocal term gave rise to this denomination. Mascoutenee, which is the true name of this country and of the people who inhabit it, signifies an open country, and in fact, forests are more rare there than in all the rest of Canada. The Pouteouatamis say Mascoutins, and it is from them that we have taken the name. Now it is averred that some Frenchmen having heard Indians who called fire by a term closely resembling that of Mascoutenee, imagined it to be the name of the tribe, and called it the

<sup>1</sup> This incident long preceded Marquette's voyage. See *Relation de la N. F.*, 1671, p. 44. For a sketch of Allouez, see *Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi*, p. 67, note. A second similar idol was thrown down in 1672: *Relation de la N. F.*, 1672-3, p. 202.

<sup>2</sup> The bison is called by Allouez (*Relation de la N. F.*, 1671, p. 44) and by Marquette (*Récit des Voyages*, p. 30; *Disc. of the Miss.*, p. 18), pisi-

kiou, and Baraga in his dictionary gives pijiki as the Otchipwe term. It is first described in *Relation de la Nouvelle France*, 1663, p. 19. None of the previous Jesuit missionaries had described it, so that it was apparently not seen then in the Seneca country, or on the great lakes.

<sup>3</sup> *Zizania aquatica*: Marquette, *Discov. and Exploration of the Mississippi*, p. 9.