

knowledge of the Indian tongues and the savage character, as well as of the information regarding the great river which he had acquired while connected with the Ottawa missions.

16 (p. 93).—The name of La Conception appears also on Marquette's map, herewith presented; but he is apparently the only explorer or writer who thus named the Mississippi. Shea remarks, in a note upon this passage of our text (*Disc. of Miss. Valley*, p. 8): "The name of Immaculate Conception, which he gave to the mission among the Kaskaskias, was retained as long as that mission lasted, and is now the title of the church in the present town of Kaskaskia."

17 (p. 99).—Cf. André's account of these tides (vol. lvi., pp. 137–139; vol. lvii., pp. 301–305); see also vol. xxxviii., *note* 19.

18 (p. 101).—The description here given is insufficient for the identification of the plant. Various plants have been regarded as specifics for the bites of venomous serpents, especially *Aristolochia serpentaria* and *Polygala Senega*; but their virtues have apparently been somewhat exaggerated. Regarding the plants above named, see Charlevoix's *Plantes Amer. Sept.*, pp. 35, 36; his *Journ. Hist.*, p. 159; Rafinesque's *Medical Flora*, vol. i., pp. 60–65, and ii., pp. 63–65; and Pickering's *Chron. Hist. of Plants*, pp. 748, 768.

19 (p. 103).—W. J. Hoffman thus explains (*U. S. Bur. Ethnol. Rep.*, 1885–86, p. 155) the character of the cross erected by the savages: "Marquette was without doubt ignorant of the fact that the cross is the sacred post, and the symbol of the fourth degree of the Midé'wiwin, as will be fully explained in connection with that grade of the society. [Marquette's conclusion] was a natural one, but this same symbol of the Midé' Society had probably been erected and bedecked with barbaric emblems and weapons months before anything was known of him."

The Midé'wiwin is "the society of the Midé' or Shamans, popularly designated as the 'Grand Medicine Society;'" it is found in many Algonkin tribes. Its ritual, and "the traditions of Indian genesis and cosmogony, . . . constitute what is to them a religion, even more powerful and impressive than the Christian religion is to the average civilized man."—See Hoffman, *ut supra*, pp. 155, 256, and plate xv. (facing p. 240), in which are depicted the "sacred posts" above referred to. Cf. vol. xxx., p. 23, where a similar society is mentioned by Ragueneau as existing among the Hurons; and *note* 1 to same volume.

20 (p. 107).—Reference is here made to the Fox-Wisconsin portage (vol. lviii., *note* 7). The name "Meskousing" is but one of numerous variants of "Wisconsin."

21 (p. 109).—"This was probably the cat fish of the Mississippi