

In the succeeding pages information concerning the character and purposes of some of our local enclosures is given.

The Indian's deity was "Manitou" (also known by other names), which meant anything supposed by him to be endowed with supernatural power. No fact is better authenticated than that the Indians paid peculiar homage to the sun. Briton states that it can be shown on undoubted authority, that everywhere in the Mississippi valley, the Indian was a sun-worshipper. Bradford believed that among almost all the aborigines there is proof of the former worship of the sun. Bartram was of the same opinion. Lafitau was convinced that as far as known, with the exception of a single tribe, the Indians worshipped the sun. According to Schoolcraft:

"The United States Indians regarded the sun as the symbol of light, life, power and intelligence, and deemed it the expression of the Great Spirit."

McGee observes that on the whole it may be safe to consider the sun as the arch-mystery of the peoples of the Siouan stock. (15 B. E., 184.)

The Wisconsin Indians bowed with reverence, not only to the sun but to the waters, winds, thunder, rocks of peculiar formation and many other objects in nature, to which they made simple offerings. This seems not to have been done as an atonement for sin, but to obtain some temporeal advantage, or to avert the anger of the spirits.

Father Marquette (*Relations*, 1670) reported that the sun and thunder were the gods of the tribes that lived on the shores of Green Bay. Allouez says of the religious beliefs and superstitions of the Wisconsin Indians:

"There is here a false and abominable religion, resembling in many respects the faiths of some of the ancient Pagans. The Savages of these regions recognize no sovereign master of Heaven and Earth, but believe there are many genii, some of which are beneficent, as the sun, the moon, the lakes, rivers and woods; others malevolent, as the adder, the dragon, cold and storms. And in general, whatever seems to them either helpful or hurtful they call a Manitou, and pay it the worship and veneration which we render only to the true God."—*Relations*, 1666-67.

Nothing appears in the religious beliefs or customs of the early historic Indians of Wisconsin indicating the offering of human beings as sacrifices to any of their deities.