

spoke several of the Algonquin languages, and no doubt had heard not only from the Pottawottamies, but from the Sacs, the Sioux, and more particularly from the Illinois, who attended the conference at "Chagouamigon," of the existence of the river and its general course, of the tribes who dwelt on its borders, and all the particulars necessary to be known to one who contemplated, as he says he did, "its discovery." The difficulties of communication between these remote points—Quebec and the banks of the Mississippi—had probably prevented any communication between the missionaries who had preceded him and their Superior, at the time Marquette embarked on his voyage; though it is to be presumed that Marquette was not ignorant as late as 1673, when he left Green Bay, that missions had been already established in the Illinois some years before; and the eclat attending the discovery might have induced him to withhold all the sources of information, which as a *discoverer* alone, and not as a *missionary*, might have been in his possession.

I feel no disposition to detract at all from Father Marquette any portion of the merit which properly belongs to him. It is certain that to his journal we owe our first knowledge of the "Father of Waters." With Joliet as his companion, he entered the "Mechasippi," in his bark canoe, on the 17th of June, 1673; having ascended the Fox from Green Bay, and crossing the Portage, descended the Ouisconsin until its confluence with the Mississippi. Leaving their frail bark to the guidance of the swift current of the river, they descended to the mouth of the Illinois. Three leagues below the junction of the Missouri (called by Marquette "Pekitanoui")* with the Mississippi, they found three villages of the Illinois. They remained here some days, and again embarking, de-

* On page 38th of Shea's *Discovery of the Mississippi Valley*, is the following note on this word: "The name here given by Marquette, Pekitanoui, that is, Muddy Water, prevailed till Mare's time, (1712). A branch of Rock river is still called Pekatonica. The *Recollects* called the Missouri, the river of the Ozages."