

for the vast horde to cross the river before their canoe could pass in safety. It was, too, a time of an unusual flood in the Upper Mississippi; the waters were so high, that they came up from the mouth of the Wisconsin, in their bark canoe, next to the bluffs, where the ground was some feet lower than the rest of the plain; and she declared that she had seen no such *great flood* since that one at the time of her arrival. She died in 1827, and her age was computed at about one hundred and thirty years. Mr. Brisbois, however, says she did not appear to be so old.

Dr. Brunson fixed the period of Cardinal's advent, judging from Mrs. Cardinal's supposed great age, as between 1720 and 1730—or perhaps, had come with the troops to Green Bay in 1726; and assumed that the Cardinals came from Canada.¹ Mr. Brisbois very properly suggests, that the fact that Cardinal was accompanied by an Omaha Indian slave, would indicate that he came from the St. Louis region, as the Omaha tribe resided high up the Missouri; and it was not an uncommon occurrence to make slaves of the Western Indians, and this was especially true of the Pawnees. It is unfortunate, that we have no record of remarkable floods in the Mississippi prior to that of April, 1785—*L'année des grandes eaux*—the year of the great flood, as the early French settlers at St. Louis used to speak of it. There was no French settlement at St. Louis prior to 1764, though there were such settlements at Kaskaskia, and other points in Illinois at a much earlier period.

The probabilities are, that Mrs. Cardinal was not nearly so old as was supposed. After Cardinal's death, Mr. Brisbois relates that the widow married her servant man Colas, who was very nearly white; and for her third husband, Joseph Crélie—but that after a three days' blissful matrimonial experience with the latter, she was yet vigorous enough to kick him out of bed, and drive him off. This latter marriage must have been somewhere about 1820, when Crélie did not exceed fifty, and would hardly have been smitten with the charms of a lady who had enjoyed the suns of over one hundred and twenty summers.

Another reason why the early date assigned by Dr. Brunson to

¹ Wis. Hist. Colls, iv, p. 249.