

Fox River, asked its native name. Supposing the Governor meant the *element*, and not its particular geographical name, the Indian responded "Neenah," water. Doty not doubting that he had now learned its aboriginal name, endeavored to have it restored, but did not succeed to any great extent. Pauquette cited this as a case in point, showing how geographical blunders sometimes occur.¹

Baribeau, or Baribault, was the name of an old Canadian French trader, who had his trading-post on what is now known as Baraboo River, and which stream took its name from him. As M. Brisbois, Sen'r, knew him well, and often spoke of him, he must have traded there the latter part of the last century, or early in this. Mr. Brisbois does not know what became of him, or anything further of his history.

The name of Wisconsin has a Chippewa derivation, but Mr. Brisbois can tell nothing of its origin or meaning. From the Winnebago chief, Waukon-Haka, or Snake-Skin, Mr. Brisbois learned that the Winnebagoes referred to the Wisconsin as the *Neekoonts-Sara*, or Gathering River; *neekoonts*, river, and *sara*, gathering—hence, *a river having many tributaries*.

Lamanwoi was the old pronunciation of what is now known by the more euphonious name of Lemonweir; but Mr. Brisbois has no knowledge of its origin or signification.

The Indians never speak of the Mississippi as *the Father of Waters*—that is rather fanciful; but invariably refer to it as *the Big River*. The Winnebagoes called it *Neekoonts-Hahtakah*—

¹ Hon. M. L. Martin writes to the editor, giving a somewhat different version of the origin of this word Neenah, as applied to Fox River; though the general agreement as to the blunder remains. "Col. Petteval," writes Judge Martin, "an engineer sent by secretary of war, Poinsett, during Van Buren's administration, to make a survey of Fox River, with a view to its improvement, gave it the name of Neenah in his report. It had never before been known by that name. It is said that he found Indians, when making his explorations between Green Bay and Lake Winnebago, from whom he got the word Neenah, by taking water in his hand from the river, and asking them what it was. They answered, of course, that it was Neenah, water; and from this circumstance, trifling in itself, the name was derived."