

Ouisconsin. But by the aid of the hop-pole and the Winnebago anathemas, both well understood, doubtless, by the oxen, we were carted over in safety. When, about midway, and during one of the numerous pauses which the oxen were wont to make, the man bearing the flag-staff of my canoe, struck, with the lower end of it, a rattle-snake that lay near where Pauquet was standing—for he walked the entire distance. The snake, enraged at the blow, gave signs of resistance, and apprehending it might dart its fangs into Pauquet's legs, I stooped from the cart, and ran it through with my sword, when one of the men cut off its head with an axe. Whether Pauquet trusted to his leather leggins and moccasins, or their being well imbued with tobacco smoke, or the powdered root, or the buzzard's neck, I did not learn; but he was as composed in regard to these reptiles, as if he had been mailed in brass or iron.

Having crossed the Portage, our canoes, supplies and baggage being all over, we embarked at eleven o'clock, A. M., on the Ouisconsin. The current which we had been opposing, the entire length of the Fox River, was now in our favor; the waters of the Ouisconsin running from its source to the Mississippi, as do those of the Fox River, on the other side of the Portage, into Green Bay. They first find their way through the Lakes into the Ocean by the St. Lawrence, and the last by the way of the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. Whether after having started for those diverse directions, from sources so near one another, they ever meet and mingle more in the deep blue sea, is a problem which I do not pretend to solve. I could not help thinking how closely they resembled early friends, who in boy-hood were hand in hand with each other, and rarely, for a series of years, out of one another's sight, when at last "some current's thwarting course" separated them, to meet no more forever.

Our voyagers felt now, upon this onward current, as the mariner feels, when both the wind and tide, after having been long contrary, turn in his favor, and when he is assured there will be no change till he reaches the port of his destination.