

them circular-crowned, increased as we approached the Mississippi; and between them, stretching far off in the interior, are beautiful savannas, widening as they recede from the river, and then terminate in fertile and richly clad table lands.

At about sundown, we arrived at the junction of the Ouisconsin with the Mississippi. Being in advance of the Count, we landed, taking from our canoe as much baggage as would make room for him and the remainder of the company, Ben, on the arrival of the Count, being transferred to his canoe, and left in charge of the baggage; when we rounded to, upon the Mississippi, and against the current of the river, arriving at Prairie Du Chien at eight o'clock, in the softest, and brightest, and purest moonlight I had ever beheld. I thought of every scene of the sort I had ever seen, and of which I had ever read; of that hour when Shakespeare watched and loved the beams of this beautiful orb, until he said—

"How sweet those moonbeams sleep on yonder bank!"

of those nights when I used to sit on the shore of Lake Superior, where I thought light so pure, so all-encircling, never came from the moon before, and where the rain-bow also took precedence, in the gorgeousness of its dyes, in the breadth and nearness of its bases, so near, sometimes, as to produce an irresistible motion to wash my hands in the falling glory. I have often since sought to give precedence to that lovely bow that spanned the Potomac, the frigate Brandywine immediately beneath the center of its arch, on board of which we had, but a few hours before, placed the good La Fayette, on his return from this country to his *La Belle France*. But it was vain. The rain-bow of Lake Superior has had, can have, no equal; but the moonlight of the Mississippi, on that night when I first beheld this Father of Rivers, will take precedence of all I have ever seen before. How I wish I could paint it! The moon above, and the river beneath me; the glory of the heavens, and the silver-tipped ripples of the Mississippi, and the pearl-tinged forests, made brighter by the contrast of the dark recesses into which the moonlight had not entered,