

lage. It is a singular mountain, cut off, by some powerful convulsion of nature, from the range of bluffs to which it belonged. It stands conspicuously, solitary and alone, in the Mississippi River, near the eastern shore; rising sheer out of the water, and is covered with timber. It rises to an altitude of five hundred and sixty feet, and is about a mile in circumference. "Nothing," says Bryant, "can be conceived more beautiful than the approach to this most romantic and picturesque spot."

Between this Mountain Island, as it is sometimes called, and the Wisconsin shore, is a body of still, clear water, half a mile wide, usually termed Trempealeau Lake; directly east of which, somewhat above the river bottom, on a beautiful plateau, gushes out from the foot of the bluff a noble spring. Here, in 1836, some Protestant Swiss missionaries—Rev. Daniel Gavin and an associate, with their excellent wives—established a mission for the civilization and Christianization of the Sioux Indians. But, as Mr. Houston states, "being neither French nor Catholic, the well intended enterprise met with no favor from the traders; and like all other missions, it encountered the personal hostility of the influential chief, Wahpasha. As if this were not enough, the land itself was transferred by the Sioux, in 1837, to the United States, and the poor missionaries, the following year, broke up their establishment, and joined Messrs. Pond and Riggs in their labors among the Dakotas."

It might have been, that Perrot fixed his post, and spent the winter of 1685-86 near the spring where the modern Swiss mission was located. The locality itself—as, indeed, were the others suggested—was sufficiently charming and romantic, to have attracted the attention of the most ardent lover of Nature in all its primitive wildness and picturesque beauty.

No wonder Perrot selected this lovely locality, somewhere at the foot of the Trempealeau bluffs—this paradise in the wilderness—for his temporary abode. Rev. D. O. Van Slyke has written a pamphlet, seriously endeavoring to substantiate the proposition, that the Trempealeau region better fulfills the Bible description of the garden of Eden than