

A great many scholars of our Indian languages have tried their hand at the word Mississippi; but the most of them are wrong. I used to be told that it is a Menomonee word, *mashchechepee* (the great river). Of course one is apt to be led astray, in tracing phonetic resemblances in native languages;<sup>1</sup> and I merely venture this derivation, because our people used to believe it, and we lived in very close relations with both Menomonees and Pottawattomies.

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<sup>1</sup>For a striking example of the dangers of confounding phonetic resemblances, see Verwyst's version of the origin of several of the foregoing place-names in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, xii, pp. 390-398. He differs materially from Vieau. It will be noticed that Vieau traces their roots mainly to the Pottawattomie tongue, and Verwyst to the Chippewa.— Ed.