

refuge in the Micissypy region, which is now called Louisiana. They ascended that river to a place about twelve leagues from the Ouisconching, where they came to another river, which is named for the Ayoës savages.¹ They followed this stream to its source, and there encountered nations who received them cordially. But as they did not find, in all that region which they traversed, any place suitable for a settlement,—since the country was destitute of woods, and contained only prairies and level fields, although buffaloes and other animals were found there in abundance,—they retraced the same route by which they had come; and, having again reached the shores of the Louisiana river, they continued to ascend it. Before they had gone far, they dispersed in various directions to pursue the chase; I will mention only one of their bands, whom the Scioux encountered, captured, and carried away to their villages. The Scioux, who had no acquaintance with the firearms and other implements which they saw among the strangers,—for they themselves use only knives and hatchets of stone,—hoped that these new nations who had come near them would share with them the commodities which they possessed; and, believing that the latter were spirits, because they were acquainted with the use of iron,—an article which was utterly unlike the stone and other things which they used,—conducted them, as I have said, to their own villages, and delivered the prisoners to their own people.

The Outaouas and Hurons gave the Scioux, in turn, a friendly reception, but did not make them presents of much value. The Scioux returned to their own country, with some small articles which they had received from the Outaouas, and shared these with their allies, giving to some hatchets, and to others knives or awls. All those villages sent deputies to those of the Outaouas; as soon as they arrived there, they began, according to their custom, to weep over every person they met, in order to manifest the lively joy which they felt in meeting them; and they entreated the strangers to have pity on them,

¹ Micissypy: a variant of Mississippi. Ouisconching: the Wisconsin River. Ayoës: the same as Iowas—referring to the Iowa River.—Ed.