

into a bay called Bay of the Puans, inhabited by a great number of nations who carry their furs to Canada. It was by the river of the Ouisconsins that Mr. Le Sueur came into the Mississippi for the first time, in 1683,<sup>1</sup> to go to the country of the Scioux, where he had at various times spent seven years. The [Mississippi] river opposite the mouth of this river is only about an eighth of a league wide.

From the first to the fifth of September, our traveller advanced fourteen leagues; he passed the Rivière aux Canots, which comes from the northeast, then that of the Quincapous, so called from the name of a nation which formerly dwelt on its bank.

From the 5th to the 9th, he made ten leagues and a half, and passed the Rivière Cachée and the Rivière aux Ailes;<sup>2</sup> on the same day, he perceived canoes full of Indians descending the river. The five Canadians recognized those who had plundered them; sentinels were placed in the woods, for fear of a surprise from the land, and when they were within hailing distance the party called out to them, that if they came any nearer they would fire on them. They ranged themselves along the island, within half a gunshot. Soon after, four of the most distinguished in the band advanced in a canoe, and asked whether we had forgotten that they were our brethren, and why we had taken up arms when we perceived them. Mr. Le Sueur told them in reply that after what they had done to the five Frenchmen who were present, he had reason to distrust them; yet for the security of his trade, being under the absolute necessity of

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<sup>1</sup>Margry thinks that this date is a copyist's error. Le Sueur was commandant at Chequamegon in 1693, but had been trading among the savages for a considerable time before that.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup>It is difficult to identify satisfactorily the rivers thus designated. Rivière aux Canots ("Canoe river") is probably the stream now called Bad Axe river; Rivère aux Ailes ("Wing river"—but thought by Shea to mean "Onion river"), the La Crosse river; Rivière Cachée ("hidden river"), Root river in Minnesota, emptying into the Mississippi a little below La Crosse. The Quincapous river is placed, on early maps, on the west side of the Mississippi; the only considerable stream which might answer to it is the Upper Iowa river, which falls into the Mississippi about three miles south of the Iowa boundary line; but it is below, instead of above, the Bad Axe river.—Ed.