

leagues higher, on the same side, you meet another river of great length, in the neighbourhood of which there is a copper mine from which he [Le Sueur] took a mass of sixty pounds in his previous voyages. To render it profitable a peace would have to be made between the Scioux and the Outagamis, because the latter, who live on the lands east of the Mississippi, pass by this road constantly when going out to war against the Scioux. In these quarters, a league and half from the northwest side, begins a lake six leagues long, and more than one broad. It is called Lake Pepin.<sup>1</sup> It is skirted on the west by a chain of mountains; on the other side, on the east, you see a prairie, and on the northwest of the lake a second prairie, two leagues long and wide; near it is a chain of mountains, which are at least two hundred feet high, and extend more than a league. Here are found many caverns to which the bears retreat in winter;<sup>2</sup> most of these caves are over forty feet deep, and about three or four feet high. Some have a very narrow entrance, and all contain saltpetre. It would be dangerous to enter them in summer, because they are full of rattlesnakes the bite of which is very dangerous. Le Sueur saw some of these snakes which were six feet long, but they do not generally exceed four; they have teeth like those of a pike, and the gums full of little bladders which contain their venom. The Scioux say that they take it every morning, and reject it at night; they have on the tail a kind of scale which makes a noise; this is what is called their rattle. Le Sueur made that day seven leagues and a half, and passed another river called Hihanbouxeaté Ouataba, which means "river of the flat rocks."<sup>3</sup>

On the 15th, he crossed a small river; and perceived in the neighborhood several canoes full of Indians coming down the river. He at first took them for Scioux, because he could not distinguish whether the canoes were large or small. He made his men get their arms ready; he soon after heard the Indians

<sup>1</sup> Du Lhut, in a letter written upon April 5, 1679, mentions the P<sup>é</sup>pin brothers.—MARGRY.

<sup>2</sup> J. N. Nicollet and Jonathan Carver have also described these caves.—SHEA.

<sup>3</sup> The Sioux call the Cannon river Inyanbosndata.—NEILL (*Minn. Explorers*, p. 41).