

The Assinipoils speak the Scioux language, and are really of that nation; and it is only within a few years that they have been at enmity with that people. The origin of that war was this: The Christinaux, having obtained the use of firearms before the Scioux did, by means of the English of Hudson's Bay, continually waged war against the Assinipoils, who were their nearest neighbors. The latter finding themselves weak asked for peace; and, to render it more firm, allied themselves to the Christinaux, taking their women to wife. The other Scioux, who had not entered this alliance, and who from all time had been at war with them, continued it; so that one day, finding some Christinaux among the Assinipoils, they broke their heads. It was the Christinaux who supplied the Assinipoils with arms and goods.

On the 16th, the two Scioux returned to their village, and it was ascertained that the Ayavois and the Otoctatas had gone to station themselves on the side of the river of Missouri, in the neighborhood of the Maha, a nation dwelling in those quarters.¹

On the 26th, the Mantantons and the Oujalespoitons arrived at the fort. After pitching their cabins in the wood, Ouacantapai came to beg Mr. Le Sueur to come to him. He there found sixteen men, with several women and children, who had their faces daubed with black. In the middle of this cabin were several buffalo-skins that served as a carpet. They made signs to him to sit down, and at the same time all these persons began to weep; this lasted during some ten minutes. Then the chief offered him wild rice to eat, and, according to their custom, put the first three spoonfuls into his mouth. After that, he told him that all those whom he saw present were, like himself, the relatives of Tioscate (this was the name of the Scioux whom Mr. Le Sueur took to Canada in 1695, and who died there in 1696). At this name of Tioscate they began to weep again, and to wipe their tears on Mr. Le Sueur's head and shoulders; after which Ouacantapai, resuming his discourse, told him that Tioscate begged him to forget the insult offered to the French

¹ Maha: the Omahas, a Siouan tribe of eastern Nebraska, allied to the Kansas.—Ed.