

This is a numerous nation, but it is divided up into several villages, on account of the jealousy of the men of greater consequence among them, who cannot agree together; and, as they are proud and warlike, they carry on war against nearly all the others. But, inasmuch as they are divided, their enemies destroy them so often that, unless they unite, they run the risk of being completely exterminated. It would be a great pity, for they are worthy people, fairly mild and civil, and more inclined, I think, to listen to the voice of the Gospel. They do not mind the profligacy of their daughters, but are very jealous of their wives; and, when one of the latter is convicted of unfaithfulness or adultery, her husband has her head shaved, cuts off her nose and ears, and thrusts her out of his cabin. After that she goes whither she wills, and her kindred have nothing to say, for such is the law of the nation.

\* \* \* \* \*

Then comes the river St. Joseph. There was a fort there with a French garrison; and there is a village of Miamis of the same nation. This post is the key to all the nations bordering on the north shore of Lake Michigan, for there is no village on the south, owing to the incursions of the Iroquois; but in the interior on the North side there are several in a Westerly direction, such as the Mascoutens, \* \* \* Peanguiseins, Peaouarias, Kikapoux, Ayouez, Sioux, and Tintons.

The Sioux are a proud and haughty nation, who war against all the others; they surpass the Iroquois in bravery and courage; they are vigorous, vigilant, watchful men, and real warriors.

They may be said to sleep with one foot in the air [i. e., are always in motion], having a dagger hanging continually from the wrist. Their bows and quivers serve them as pillows. When not surprised, they are almost invincible; but when they are, they fight unto death. Indeed, it seldom happens that a Sioux is taken alive; because, as soon as they see that they can no longer resist, they kill themselves, considering that they are not worthy to live, when once bound, vanquished, and made slaves. It is rather surprising that people so brave and so warlike as these should nevertheless be able to shed tears at will,