

Leagues below the Village of rouinsac,¹ where The fathers Are Settled, and where there are some Frenchmen. This Oyo or beautiful River has its source about thirty Leagues back of [i. e., south from] the Senontouann nation. There is a river above fort des Sables on Lake Ontariau, and near the Riviere aux beufs, which flows into that beautiful river.² Any one wishing easily to reach the misysypy would only need to follow this River or the Sandosquet, and would run no risk of going hungry, for all those who have traveled over this route have often assured me that there was all Along that beautiful River so vast a number of buffalo and all other wild animals that they Were Often obliged to discharge their guns in order to clear a passage. They say that 2,000 men could easily subsist there.

From this Sandosquet River, to go to destroit, they cross lake Esrie from island to island, and reach a place called Point plée,³ where there is a very great abundance of all sorts of fish, and especially of enormous sturgeon, three, four, or five feet in Length. In one of these islands there is such abundance of cats⁴ that some Savages have in a very short time killed as many as 900. The reason why the savages cross is because it greatly shortens Their route; for, If they did not do so, it would be necessary to go by the River which flows from the territory of the miamis at the end of Lake Erie.

¹ Among early writers and explorers, the name Wabash was applied not only to that river but to that part of the Ohio which lies below the junction of the two streams. The "village of Rouinsac" means Kaskaskia, Ill.; the Jesuits had a mission there. Cf. p. 315, note 2, ante.—Ed.

² Fort des Sables was on Irondequoit Bay, a little east of the Genesee river. That stream does not flow into the Ohio, but its headwaters are very near those of the Alleghany, to which a short portage would lead the traveler. The Rivière aux Bœufs (Buffalo river) is probably Oak Orchard Creek, in Orleans county, N. Y.—Ed.

³ Point Pelée, a long, narrow cape or point extending southward from the north shore of Lake Erie. Between it and Sandusky Bay lie numerous islands, partially bridging the waters of the lake.—Ed.

⁴ The wildcat (*chat sauvage*) of the early travelers meant the animal now called "raccoon" (*Procyon lotor*). See also, p. 237, note, ante.—Ed.