

la crosse, twenty or more on each side. Their bat [*crosse*] is a sort of small racket, and The ball with which they Play Is of very Heavy wood, a little larger than the balls we use in Tennis.¹ When they Play, they Are entirely naked; they have only a breech-clout, and Shoes of deer-skin. Their bodies are painted all over with all Kinds of colors. There are some who paint their bodies with white clay, applying it to resemble silver lace sewed on all the seams of a coat; and, at a distance, one would take it for silver lace.

They play for large Sums, and often The prize Amounts to more than 800 Livres. They set up two goals and begin Their game midway between; one party drives The ball one way, and the other in the opposite direction, and those who can drive It to the goal are the winners. All this is very diverting and interesting to behold. Often one Village Plays against another, the *poux* against the *outaouacs* or the *hurons*, for very considerable prizes. The French frequently take part in these games. The women work in the fields, raising very fine indian corn, beans, peas, squashes, and melons. In the evening The women and The girls dance. They adorn themselves liberally, grease their hair, put on white chemises, and paint their Faces with vermilion, also putting on all the porcelain beads they possess, so that after their fashion they look very well dressed. They dance to the Sound of the drum and of the *sisyquoy* [*rat-tle*], which Is a sort of gourd with pellets of lead inside. There are four or five Young men who sing, and keep time by beating the drum and the *sisyquoy*, while the women dance to the rhythm and do not miss a step. This Is a very pretty sight, And it lasts almost all night. Often the old men dance The *medelinne*,² they look like a band of sorcerers. All this is

¹The game here described, called by French writers *crosse*, was a favorite one among most of the American tribes. For full description of it, see *Jes. Relations*, x, pp. 185-187, 231, 326-328; xv, 179. The American and Canadian game of lacrosse is adapted from the Indian game.—Ed.

²Medicine dance; practiced by the medicine-men (*midé*). See W. J. Hoffman's description of the dances and other rites of the Mitä' wit, or "Grand Medicine Society" among the Menomonee Indians, in *U. S. Bur. Ethnol. Report*, 1892-93, pp. 66-161.—Ed.