

Between this village of the Illinois and the other on the ouabache it is 40 leagues. Going down the Misisipy from ouabache to natches the distance is 260 leagues. This is the only village to be found along the Misisipy in going to the sea. It is 500 leagues from the sea to the village of Rouainsac, where The fathers Are; and there is always a strong current in coming up the Misisipy from the sea.

I Return to the River of the miamis. Its entrance from Lake Esrié Is very Wide, and on both sides, for a distance of ten Leagues in Ascending, there is nothing but continuous marshes. In these there is at all seasons game without end, especially in autumn and in spring; so that one can not sleep on account of the noise made by the cries of the swans, bustards, geese, ducks, cranes, and other birds. This river is sixty leagues in length, and is very difficult in summer on account of the shallowness of its waters. Thirty leagues up is a place called la glaise [the place of clay],¹ where one always finds wild cattle [buffalo], who eat the clay and roll in it. The miamis are Sixty leagues from Lake Esrié. They number 400 men, all shapely and well tattooed. They have abundance of women. They are very industrious, and raise a Kind of indian corn which is unlike that of our tribes at Destroit. Their corn Is white, of the Same size as the other, with much finer husks and much whiter flour. These people dress in deer-skins; and when a girl Is married, and associates with another man than Her husband, the latter cuts off Her nose and has no more intercourse with her. This is the only nation that has this custom. They are fond of gaming and dancing, and are mainly occupied with these. The women are well covered, but the men wear very little covering, and have their bodies tattooed all over. From this Village of the miamis² there is a portage of three Leagues to a very Narrow little River; and that river, after following it 20 Leagues, falls into the oyo River, or beautiful River; the latter empties into the ouabache, another fine river, which falls into the Misisypy

¹ [Now] Defiance, in the N. W. of Ohio.—E. B. O'CALLAGHAN.

² On the site of the present Fort Wayne, Ind.—Ed.