

was heard soon afterward. Hardly had they reached the shore when a venerable Old Man appeared, and a Woman carrying a bag in which was a clay pot filled with cornmeal porridge. More than two hundred stout young men came upon the scene; their hair was adorned with headdresses of various sorts, and their bodies were covered with tattooing in black, representing many kinds of figures; they carried arrows and war-clubs, and wore girdles and leggings of braided work. The old man held in his hand a Calumet of red stone, with a long stick at the end; this was ornamented in its whole length with the heads of birds, flame-colored, and had in the middle a bunch of feathers colored a bright red, which resembled a great fan. As soon as he espied the leader of the Frenchmen, he presented to him the Calumet, on the side next to the Sun; and uttered words which were apparently addressed to all the Spirits whom those Peoples adore. The old man held it sometimes toward the east, and sometimes toward the west; then toward the Sun; now he would stick the end in the ground, and then he would turn the Calumet around him, looking at it as if he were trying to point out the whole earth, with expressions which gave the Frenchman to understand that he had compassion on all men. Then he rubbed with his hands Perot's head, back, legs, and feet, and sometimes his own body. This welcome lasted a long time, during which the Old Man made a harangue, after the fashion of a prayer, all to assure the Frenchman of the joy which all in the Village felt at his arrival.

One of the men spread upon the grass a large painted ox-skin, the hair on which was as soft as silk, on which he and his comrade were made to sit. The Old Man struck two pieces of wood together, to obtain fire from it; but as it was wet he could not light it. The Frenchman drew forth his own fire-steel, and immediately made fire with tinder.<sup>1</sup> The Old Man uttered loud exclamations about the iron, which seemed to him a spirit; the Calumet was lighted, and each man smoked; then they must eat porridge and dried meat, and suck the juice of the green

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<sup>1</sup>For descriptions of aboriginal processes of fire-making, see *Jes. Relations*, vi, 217; xii, 272; also, Walter Hough's "Fire-making Apparatus," in *U. S. Natl. Museum Report*, 1887-88, pp. 531-587.—Ed.