

it at high water in spring. It is a shallow river upon a bed of shifting sand which forms banks almost everywhere, which often change place. The shores are either bare and rugged mountains or low points with a foundation of sand. Its course from the portage is from North East to South West. To its discharge into the Mississippi I have estimated the distance at thirty-eight leagues. The portage is in  $43^{\circ} 24'$  North latitude. The Mississippi from the mouth of the Oüisconsin upwards flows from the North West. This beautiful river is spread out between two chains of high mountains, barren and very sterile, regularly distant from each other one league, three quarters of a league, or half a league where it is the narrowest. Its centre is occupied by a chain of islands well wooded, so that in looking at it from the top of the heights, one would imagine that one was looking at an endless valley watered on right and left by two immense rivers. Sometimes also one does not see any river, for these islands are overflowed every year and are suitable for raising rice. At 58 leagues according to my estimate, from the mouth of the Oüisconsin, in going up the Mississippi, is lake Pepin, which is nothing else than this river itself stripped of islands in this place, where it may be half a league wide. The part of this river that I have traveled over is not very deep, and has shallow water in several places, because its bed is of shifting sand like that of the Oüisconsin.

On the 17th of September, 1727, at noon, we reached this lake, which had been chosen as the end of our voyage. We established ourselves towards evening about the middle of the Northern shore upon a low point whose soil is excellent. The woods were very dense there, but they are already thinned on account of the rigor and length of the winter, which has been severe for the climate, for we are here in latitude  $43^{\circ} 51'$ .<sup>1</sup> It is true that the difference in the winter is great compared with that of Quebec and Montreal, whatever certain poor judges may

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<sup>1</sup>Shea, *Early Voyages up and down the Mississippi* (Albany, N. Y., 1861), has  $43^{\circ} 41'$ , but all other authorities give  $51'$ . The true latitude is about  $44^{\circ} 31'$ .—Ed.