Wisconsin Historical Collections [vol. xvii

The distance from the Illinois to the *Pêanguichias*¹ is about 120 leagues and 15 leagues from the Péanguichias to the Oüyas; 60 leagues from the Oüyas to the *Miamis*; 120 leagues from the Miamis to Detroit; and 300 leagues from Detroit to Montreal; making 615 leagues in all.

Observations on the Scioux by Monsieur De Boucherville; being a continuation of the Relation of his adventures in 1728 and 29.

The Scioux are very numerous. They have ten villages very far apart. Their language is very difficult to learn, all the more so that there are few opportunities of conversing with these wandering people, who are ever engaged in hunting.

The men are of quite fine appearance but are indolent; consequently they fast often. The women are ugly, but laborious. Necessity has taught them the knowledge of a quantity of roots which contribute to their subsistence. There are two kinds of Scioux, namely: the Prairie Scioux, and the River Scioux who make use of very small bark canoes suitable for the frequent portages they have to make.

They are greatly addicted to theft; otherwise they are rather mild and docile, fearing and respecting their chiefs. But little reliance is to be placed in them because they are suspicious and jealous of their women, whom they murder without scruple on mere suspicion. They are never allowed to enter the fort; they would be too importunate. Fortunately the dearth of provisions compels them to separate from the French after seven or eight days. They are very fond of singing and dancing. They are superstitious beyond anything that can be said. They have a number of jugglers and charlatans, who know how to win their confidence and abuse their stupid credulity.

Although they have had firearms but a short time, they can use them perfectly well. They are very generous and when we

[56]

¹Called by the English Piankashaw, a kindred tribe to the Ouiatonon.—ED.