

eight villages. From the point of junction, now the city of Cairo, the heart of what is facetiously called "Egypt," in the west, he floated down slowly, under the hot July sun of that climate, and stung to the quick by the mosquito, who still retains his spur and his droning and reigns the terror of summer nights. On a sudden the canoes were desecrated by a band of savages on the east bank, which would be that of the State of Kentucky, who were armed with guns, wore raiment of cloth, had hoes, hatchets and beads, and other articles of civilization which they must have received from the white man. Marquette did not hesitate to stop, and on displaying his calumet, which was at once recognized, he was requested to land and to partake of a feast, consisting of wild beef, bears' oil and white plums. They set out again the next morning and, after lazily advancing for several days, they reached a village of the Mitchigamea, some twenty-five or thirty miles from the Arkansas River. Here another troop of Indians awaited them on the bank, from the looks of whom they feared a hostile reception. The war-cry was raised; the young braves went prancing forth in battle array, and one of them threw his war-club, which fortunately fell short of its aim. Just then a body of old men appeared on the scene, and, at sight of the pipe of peace which Marquette brandished on high, they checked the onslaught and brought on peace.

This was crowned by the usual feast of welcome, after the Frenchmen had been invited to land, and they spent the night under the wigwams, not, adds the Father, "without a little uneasiness." Proceeding onward the next morning, they attained the village of the Akamsea, or of the Arkansas, facing the mouth of the river of that name on the western side, in the present State of Arkansas, but situate on the east side, in what is the State of Mississippi. Here again they were well received from the first; were treated to a feast that lasted all day, and at night the chief danced the calumet as a mark of perfect