

moved. The *Tamarouas* and *Caoukias* were to the south, near the east bank of the Mississippi. These five tribes constituted the Illinois nation—to which was subsequently added a sixth, the *Metchagamea* (of a different dialect). The great village of the *Kaskaskias*, 1680–1700, was south of the Illinois River, between it and the Vermillion. The *Peouarias* were on the north side of the Illinois, near La Salle's fort (and the present village of Utica), and it was here that Gravier resumed, in 1698, his mission work among the Illinois, and built a chapel. His MS. dictionary is of the Peouaria dialect, in which *r* is used for the more common Illinois *l* or *n*.\*

The French missionaries found the Illinois language "very different from that of any other Algonkin nation."† Marquette mentions the differences of dialect between remote villages of the nation, but these were not so great that the inhabitants could not converse together.‡

The *Miamis* were allies of the Illinois, and spoke a dialect of the same language, of which we have some vocabularies; one in Volney's *Tableau &c. des États-Unis* (Paris, 1803), vol. ii. pp. 525–532, and another, from MS. authorities, printed in the Comparative Vocabulary to Gallatin's Synopsis.

The Peouaria dialect must have been soft and musical, in comparison with others of the same family which are known to us. Almost every syllable terminates with a vowel: the only exceptions are those in which the vowel is followed by *n* (nasal?) before *g*, *k*, *ch*, and *tch*, in the next syllable. The proportion of consonants to vowels, in the written language, is very small. Some words are framed entirely of vowels, e. g. *waîwa* [u-a-i-u-a] 'he goes astray'; *waui* [u-a-u-i, or, with imperfect diphthongs, *ua-ui* ['an egg']; *wiowa* [u-i-u-u-a] 'he is married'; in many others, there is only a single semi-vowel or consonant proper in half a dozen syllables, e. g. *aiwaakiwi* 'there is yet room'; *aiapia* 'a buck.' In *acouateoui* (*acowatewé*, Gr.) 'it leans, is not upright,' we have but two consonants.

\* He gives: "*Inooa*, Illinois, peuple": "*Irinooa*, un homme fait": "*Irenooeoa*, il parle Illinois"; "*nit-erenooe*, je parle Illinois, je parle ma langue."

† Relation, 1667, p. 21.

‡ Narrative, in Shea's *Discovery of the Mississippi*, 245.