

all over the United States and Canada, but the greatest number have been collected in . . . the States of Ohio, Mississippi, Missouri, and Alabama."

705. The *CORNETS-DES-NOIRS* formed an interesting class which came into existence early in Canadian history. French by origin, they adopted the customs, and, to a great extent, the lawlessness, of the Indians with whom they associated. They hunted, trapped, traded in furs, and on occasion acted as soldiers or guides.

707. *VOYAGER*: — A river boatman; still a picturesque figure on the St. Lawrence and its kindred streams.

The lowlands of Louisiana are guarded by extensive embankments, or levees, from the encroachment of the Mississippi.

713. St. Catherine was a Christian maiden who was martyred 307 A. D. She had vowed never to marry. Hence the old French saying "to braid St. Catherine's tresses" was applied to those devoted to a single life.

729. Cf. l. 660.

732. *SHARDS*: — Shreds, fragments. A. S. *seard*, a broken thing.

733. It is unusual to introduce an invocation to the Muse so late in the poem. For a similar instance, see Milton, *Paradise Lost*, i. 376.

II.

741. The *BEAUTEFUL RIVER* was the Ohio, so called by the Iroquois. La Salle discovered it about 1669, and the name was transferred to the earliest maps. Consult any good atlas of the Southern States for the course traversed by the Acadian exiles.

750. "Between the 1st of January and the 13th of May, 1765, about 650 Acadians arrived at New Orleans. Louisiana had been ceded by France to Spain in 1762, but did not really pass under Spanish control until 1769. The existence of a French population attracted the wandering Acadians and they were sent by the authorities to form settlements in Attakapas and Opelousas. They afterwards formed settlements on both sides of the Mississippi. . . . Hence the name of the Acadian Coast, which a portion of the banks of the river still bears." (*Evangeline*, ed. H. E. Scudder.) Opelousas, now a single town, was at that time a parish of huge dimensions. It was 150 miles long by about 50 broad, and contained an area of 7,000 square miles. Longfellow's authority on Louisiana was Darby's book mentioned in the Introduction (pub. 1816). The following extract from this volume will be of interest as showing the route the exiles had to take in order to reach Opelousas: "From the efflux of the Atchafalaya to Opelousas is 36 miles in a direct line. . . . The present circuitous route by water down the Mississippi and L'Angevenines, and up the Atchafalaya and Courtableau to Opelousas, is from one point to the other upwards of 200 miles."

752-77. This beautiful passage is an excellent example of the poet's descriptive power. It possesses much breadth and grandeur.

755. *CHUTES*: — Narrow river channels.

758. *WIMPLING*: — Rippling. Cf. Burns, *Hallowe'en*: —

"Among the bonnie winding banks,
Where Doon rins, wimplin' clear."

761. The China-tree here mentioned was probably the "pride of India," a cultivated shade-tree not unlike our northern elm.