

After a few sober reflections on this event, Marquette from this point sets down all that he saw and heard in concise speech, such as displays the trained writer. The aspects of the land on both banks, and the different animals that came upon their sight, are carefully noted. Two things chiefly struck him by their novelty—the great size of the fish and the great herds of buffalo. The observation is remarkable that, in our day, there are no fish to speak of in the Mississippi, and not in the last quarter of a century has a bison's foot bounded on its banks. For eight long days the travellers were plunged in solitude, wrapped in admiration of the wild beauties of nature, till, on the 25th June, they descried on the western bank the print of human feet, and a beaten trail which led into a beautiful prairie. Here the missionary ordered a halt in the hope that he was in sight of a pathway to an Indian dwelling, and the party landed. After walking six miles they came upon three villages, which, to Marquette's abounding joy, were found to be occupied by his beloved Illinois, whose country it had long been his aim to visit. Whether these Indians had heard of him from their brothers on the eastern side of the river does not appear, but they received him and his party with true hospitality. A banquet of no less than four courses was made ready, and the white men were fed on them as so many children. Then came the dance of universal tradition, kept to our own time, in which the calumet was waved on high, then smoked, after which it was given them as a talisman, for with it, as the Father writes, "you can march fearlessly among enemies who, even in the heat of battle, lay down their arms when it is shown."

Returning to their canoes, they coasted along a range of bluffs which Marquette calls Piaac, doubtless after the Indian name. They are well known to-day as the "Pictured Rocks," and have been the subject of much research on the part of Schoolcraft and other Indian specialists. The two