

warriors. Their town contains about fifty houses, which are strongly built with palisades, and the island on which it is situated, nearly fifty acres. It lies thirty five miles, reckoning according to the course of the river, from the Green Bay.

The river for about four or five miles from the bay, has a gentle current; after that space, till you arrive at the Winnebago Lake, it is full of rocks and very rapid. At many places we were obliged to land our canoes, and carry them a considerable way. Its breadth, in general, from the Green Bay to the Winnebago Lake, is between seventy and a hundred yards: the land on its borders very good, and thinly wooded with hickory, oak and hazel.

The Winnebago Lake is about fifteen miles long from east to west, and six miles wide. At its south-east corner, a river falls into it that takes its rise near some of the northern branches of the Illinois River. This I called the Crocodile River, in consequence of a story that prevails among the Indians, of their having destroyed in some part of it, an animal, which from their description must be a crocodile or an alligator.

The land adjacent to the Lake is very fertile, abounding with grapes, plums, and other fruits, which grow spontaneously. The Winnebagoes raise on it a great quantity of Indian corn, beans, pumpkins, squashes and watermelons, with some tobacco. The Lake itself abounds with fish, and in the fall of the year, with geese, ducks and teal. The latter, which resort to it in great numbers, are remarkably good and extremely fat, and are much better flavored than those that are found near the sea, as they acquire their excessive fatness by feeding on the wild rice which grows so plentifully in these parts.

Having made some acceptable presents to the good old queen, and received her blessing, I left the town of the Winnebagoes on the 29th of September, and about twelve miles from it, arrived at the place where the Fox River enters the Lake, on the north side of it. We proceeded up this river, and on the 7th of October