

language throughout all the tribes, from the Mohawks of Canada, to those who inhabit the borders of the Mississippi, and from the Hurons and Illinois to such as dwell near Hudsons Bay.

Thirdly, from their inveterate hatred to the Spaniards. Some of them informed me that they had many excursions to the south west, which took up several moons. An elder chief more particularly acquainted me, that about forty-six winters ago, he marched at the head of fifty warriors, towards the south west, for three moons. That during this expedition, whilst they were crossing a plain, they discovered a body of men on horse back, who, belonged to the Black People; for so they call the Spaniards. As soon as they perceived them, they proceeded with caution, and concealed themselves till night came on; when they drew so near as to be able to discern the number and situation of their enemies. Finding they were not able to cope with so great a superiority by day light, they waited till they had retired to rest; when they rushed upon them, and, after having killed the greatest part of the men, took eighty horses loaded with what they termed white stone. This I suppose to have been silver, as he told me the horses were shod with it, and that their bridles were ornamented with the same. When they had satiated their revenge, they carried off their spoil, and being got so far as to be out of the reach of the Spaniards that had escaped their fury, they left the useless and ponderous burthen, and with which the horses were loaded, in the woods, and mounting themselves, in this manner returned to their friends. The party they had thus defeated, I conclude to be the caravan that annually conveys to Mexico, the silver which the Spaniards find in great quantities on the mountains lying near the heads of the Colerado River: and the plains where the attack was made, probably some they were obliged to pass over in their way to the heads of the river St. Fee, or Rio del Nord, which falls into the Gulf of Mexico, to the west of the Mississippi.

The Winnebagoes can raise about two hundred

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