

from several young women that attended her. These her attendants seemed greatly pleased whenever I shewed any token of respect to their queen, particularly when I saluted her, which I frequently did to acquire her favour. On these occasions the good old lady endeavoured to assume a juvenile gaiety, and shewed by her smiles she was equally pleased with the attention I paid her.

The time I tarried here, I employed in making the best observations possible on the country, and of collecting the best intelligence I could of the origin, customs and language of this people. From these enquiries I have reason to conclude that the Winnebagoes originally resided in some of the provinces belonging to New-Mexico, and being driven from their native country, either by intestine divisions, or by the extension of the Spanish conquests, they took refuge in these more Northern parts about a century ago.

My reasons for adopting this supposition are: first, from their unalienable attachment to the Nadowessie Indians (who, they say, gave the earliest succour during their emigration) notwithstanding their present residence is more than six hundred miles distant from that people.

Secondly, that their dialect totally differs from every other Indian nation yet discovered, it being a very uncouth guttural jargon, which none of their neighbours will attempt to learn. They converse with other nations in the Chipeway tongue, which is the prevailing language throughout all the tribes, from the Mohawks of Canada, to those who inhabit the borders of the Mississippi, and from the Hurons or Illinois to such as dwell near Hudson's Bay.

Thirdly, from their inveterate hatred to the Spaniards. Some of them informed me they had made many excursions to the South-West, which took up several moons. An elderly 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, while they were crossing a plain, they discovered a body of men on horseback, who belonged to the Black People (for so they call the Spaniards). As soon as they perceived them they proceeded with caution, and could not be able to get near them 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 gain victory by great a superiority by daylight, they went and hid themselves in the bushes, and after having killed the great

est 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 fatiated their revenge they carried off their spoil, and having got so far as to be out of the reach of the Spaniards who had reached their fury, they left the useless and ponderous burden, 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 concluded to be the caravan which annually conveys to Mexico, the silver which the Spaniards find in great quantities on the mountains lying near the heads of the Colorado River; and the plains where the attack was made, probably, some 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 warriors. Their town contains about fifty houses, which are strongly built with pallisades, 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 an 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 about six miles wide. At its South-West 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, squash and water melons, 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 num-

bers, are remarkably good and extremely fat, and are much better flavoured than those which 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 reached the great Carrying-Place which divides it from the Ouisconsin.

The Fox River, from the Green Bay to the carrying place is about one hundred and eighty miles. From the Winnebago Lake to the Carrying-Place the current is gentle, and the depth of it considerable; notwithstanding which, in some places, it is with difficulty canoes can pass, through the obstructions they meet with from the rice stalks, which are very large and thick, and grow here in great abundance. The country around it is very fertile, and proper, in the highest degree, for cultivation; excepting in some places near the river, where it is rather too low. It is in no part very woody, and yet can supply sufficient to answer the demands of any number of inhabitants. This river is the greatest resort for wild fowl of every kind that I met with during the whole course of my travels; frequently the sun would be obscured by them for some minutes together.

About forty miles up this river, from the great town of the Winnebagoes stands a smaller town belonging to the nation.

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#### FOREIGN NEWS.

STOCKHOLM, MAY 21.

SHORTLY before the departure of the post, an express was dispatched the 15th of May, from the road of Fredericksburgh, which brings the important news, that the king, after having taken command of the fleet on the 9th ult. attacked the Russian fleet, and after an engagement of three hours did the great damage: two frigates, one galleon and twenty-eight half-galleons, were taken, and ten armed sloops sunk; among the vessels of war taken, is the gallant last year near the Sverkefund, the transports and forty armed boats were also burnt in the shipyard; the Sw-