

## HISTORY.

## CARVER'S TRAVELS.

(Continued.)

DEER and bears are very numerous in these parts, and a great many beaver and other furs are taken on the streams that empty themselves into this river.

The river I am treating of is remarkable for having been, about eighty years ago, the residence of the united bands of the Ottigamies and the Saukies, whom the French had nicknamed, according to their wonted custom, des Sacs and des Reynards, the Sacks and the Foxes, of whom the following anecdote was related to me by an Indian.

About sixty years ago, the French missionaries and traders, having received many insults from these people, a party of French and Indians, under the command of captain Morand, marched to revenge their wrongs. The captain set out from the Green Bay in the winter, when they were unsuspecting of a visit of this kind, and pursuing his route over the snow to their villages, which lay about fifty miles up the Fox River, came upon them by surprize. Unprepared as they were, he found them an easy conquest, and consequently killed or took prisoners the greater part of them. On the return of the French to the Green Bay, one of the Indian chiefs in alliance with them, who had a considerable band of the prisoners under his care, stopped to drink at a brook; in the mean time his companions went on, which being observed by a woman, she suddenly seized him with both her hands, whilst he stooped to drink, by an exquisitely susceptible part, and held him fast till he expired on the spot. As the chief, from the extreme torture he suffered, was unable to call out to his friends or to give any alarm, they passed on without knowing what had happened; and the woman having cut the hands of those of her fellow prisoners who were in the rear, with this she made her escape. This heroine was ever after treated by her nation as their deliverer, and made a chiefs in her own right, with liberty to entail the same honour on her descendants—an unusual distinction,

and permitted only on extraordinary occasions.

About twelve miles before I reached the Carrying Place, I observed several small mountains which extended quite to it. These indeed would only be esteemed as molehills when compared with those on the back of the colonies, but as they were the first I had seen since my leaving Niagara, a track of nearly eleven hundred miles, I could not leave them unnoticed.

The Fox River, where it enters the Winnebago lake, is about fifty yards wide, but it gradually decreases to the Carrying place, where it is no more than five yards over, except in a few places where it widens into small lakes, though still of considerable depth. I cannot recollect any thing else that is remarkable in this river, except that it so serpentine for five miles, as only to gain in that place one quarter of a mile.

The Carrying Place between the Fox and Ouisconsin Rivers is in breadth not more than a mile and three quarters, though in some maps it is so delineated as to appear to be ten miles. And here I cannot help remarking, that all the maps of these parts I have ever seen are very erroneous. The rivers in general are described as running in different directions from what they really do; and many branches of them, particularly of the Mississippi, omitted. The distances of places, likewise, are greatly misrepresented; whether this is done by the French geographers (for the English maps are all copied from theirs) through design, or for want of a just knowledge of the country, I cannot say; but I am satisfied that travellers who depend upon them in the parts I visited, will find themselves much at a loss. Having surveyed, with the greatest care, every country through which I passed, I can assert that the map prefixed to this work is drawn with much greater precision than any extant.

Near one half of the way, between the rivers, is a morass overgrown with a kind of long grass, the rest of it a plain, with some few oak and pine trees growing thieron. I observed here a great number of rattle-snakes. Monsieur Pinnance, a French trader, told me a re-

markable story concerning one of these reptiles, of which he said he was an eye-witness: an Indian belonging to the Menomonie nation, having taken one of them, contrived to tame it, and when he had done this treated it as a Diety, calling it his great father, and carrying it in a box with him wherever he went. This the Indian had done for several summers, when Monsieur Pinnance accidentally met with him at this Carrying Place, just as he was setting off for his winter's hunt. The French gentleman was surprized one day, to see the Indian place the box which contained his God on the ground, and opening the door, give him his liberty; telling him, whilst he did it, to be sure and return by the time he himself should come back, which was to be May following. As this was but October, Monsieur told the Indian, whose simplicity astonished him, that he fancied he might wait long enough when May arrived for the arrival of his great father. The Indian was so confident of his creature's obedience, that he offered to lay the Frenchman a wager of two gallons of rum, that at the time appointed he would come and crawl into his box. This was agreed on, and the second week in May following fixed for the determination of the wager. At that period they both met there again; the Indian set down the box, and called for his great father. The snake heard him not; and the time being expired, he acknowledged he had lost. However, without seeming discouraged, he offered to double the bet if his great father came not within two days more—this was further agreed on; when behold, on the second day, about one o'clock, the snake arrived, and of his own accord, crawled into the box, which was placed ready for him. The French gentleman vouched for the truth of this story, and from the accounts I have often received of the docility of these creatures, I see no reason to doubt his veracity.

I observed that the main body of the Fox River came from the South-West, that of the Ouisconsin from the North-East, and also that some of the small branches of these two rivers, in descending into them, doubled, within a few feet of each other, a little to the South