

said: 'You are of the Abenakis. They are our forefathers and the forefathers of all red men. They were the men of the Dawn. They came from the east. They were born in the morning of the world. The traditions of my people are full of the Abenakis. They rocked the cradles of our race.'

"Both these answers are founded on historical facts. The Abenakis came from the extreme east of the North American continent and inhabited in early days the territory comprised now by the state of Maine and by the Canadian province of New Brunswick. The reports of a big battle on the Mississippi river, between the Sioux and the Iroquois, is also of historical record and is found in the letters of the Baron de La Hontan, a French officer who visited the upper Mississippi over two hundred years ago and who wrote in 1689. The narration of the battle is sufficiently characteristic of the period to be of interest, corroborating the exactness of Sitting Bull's reminiscences. Here is a literal translation of it:

"We arrived on the second of March, 1688, to the river Mississippi, which we found more rapid than on the occasion of our first visit, on account of the rain and melting snows. The swift current saved us the labor of paddling down. On the tenth day we came to an island known as L'île aux Rencontres -- Meeting Island. The name comes from the fact that a battle took place on that island between 400 Iroquois warriors and 300 Na-doues-sioux or Sioux. This is how the thing happened: The Iroquois, who were on the war-path, were paddling up the river, when they perceived, on the opposite side, a fleet of canoes floating down