

## VII.—ON THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI.

ca-noe' [-noo'].  
 prec'-i-pice [pres'-].

trib'-u-ta-ries.  
 Min-ne-ap'-o-lis.

St. An'-tho-ny.  
 [Saint An'-to-nī.]

1. IN order to learn something more about brooks and rivers, let us take a journey down the upper Mississippi, starting from Itasca Lake. But what shall we travel in? The river at first is not big enough to carry even the smallest kind of a steamboat or sailing vessel; so we must get a little boat called a *canoe*, which is moved by *paddles*. We shall easily find somebody to paddle us down the river.

2. Mile after mile we glide along, through the dark forest with its bright, sunny openings. We pass the *mouth* of many a smaller brook which pours its clear waters into the Mississippi, and so it grows larger and larger as we go on. These streams, which bring their waters to it, are called *tributaries* of the river.

3. We have now come to a place where great rocks lie in the middle of the stream, and the water foams and dashes through the narrow passages between them, so that we expect every moment to be driven against them, and have our boat broken to pieces. The current is so swift, that, in some places, the men cannot keep the boat off from the rocks with the paddles, but must wade in the stream to guide it through the narrow channels.

4. The bottom, or bed, of the river is very sloping; and that is the reason the water moves over it so rapidly, just as your sled goes more swiftly down a steep hill