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ASTOR, LENOX AND
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211 William Gelburn

LATE ACCOUNT

OF THE

Ny. Dist. Society.

MISSOURI TERRITORY,

Slaves.

COMPILED FROM NOTES TAKEN DURING A TOUR THROUGH THAT
COUNTRY IN 1815, AND A TRANSLATION OF LETTERS FROM A
DISTINGUISHED FRENCH EMIGRANT, WRITTEN IN 1817.

BY D. T. MADON.

AUTHOR OF THE MORAL AND POLITICAL DISCOURSE ON WAR, &c.

PARIS KY.

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.

By John Lyle.

1817

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RECOMMENDATIONS.

Winchester, October 28th 1817.

Having just returned from a visit to the Missouri Territory, I was requested by the Author of the "Late Account" of that country to examine his manuscript—which so far as I explored the country is correct—and I think the Account well worthy of publication.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM.

Paris, Oct. 31st 1817.

I have sketched with some attention Mr. Madox's "Late Account of the Missouri Territory." From the knowledge I have been enabled to acquire of that country by writers and explorers, I am disposed to attribute to the production, correctness and accuracy. His divisions of subjects, appear judicious; and his style, pleasant and interesting. The summary it will give, comprized comparatively in few pages, to the people of the United States, who at this time feel a lively interest in being well informed concerning that immense region, combined with the merit of the work, ought to entitle it to a considerable share of the public patronage.

B. MILLIS.

Paris, Oct. 31st 1817.

Having hastily glanced over Mr. D. T. Madox's "Account of the Missouri Territory." From the observations I have been able to make in part personally, and the information I have had an opportunity otherwise to receive, I have no doubt of its general correctness. His subjects, are certainly interesting, and his descriptive portraits vivid. The tide of emigration will for centuries to come, continue rolling to the west. Whatever tends to give a tolerably just view of this part of the threshold of a new world cannot fail to be useful, as well as to excite the liveliest interest. All who feel disposed, and who have had opportunities of information, should therefore be encouraged to contribute to the stock. Mr. Madox's effort seems to me well worthy of publication, so far as I have looked over it;—and I have no doubt his outlines yet unfilled, will form a useful addition. I

J. BLEDSOE

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Winchester, Nov. 3rd 1817.

I have hastily perused Mr. D. T. Madox's "Late Account of the Missouri Territory." From the information I have received of that country, as well as some little knowledge I possess of it, I am entirely persuaded of his correctness. The subjects on which he treats are highly interesting to a great portion of the American people, and the style of the work, will no doubt be pleasing to the Public. The Missouri Territory begins already to attract considerable attention in most of the states, and particularly, in the middle and southern, and information of the kind which the present work exhibits, will be extremely useful to those who feel disposed to explore, or settle the country.

WALLER TAYLOR.

Winchester, Nov. 5th 1817.

Having partially examined the annexed pages, intended for publication, as far as my information extends I accord in opinion with the foregoing certificates of Messrs. Mills, Bledsoe Taylor & Co.

H. TAYLOR.

Winchester, Nov. 4th 1817.

Feeling myself interested in the welfare of the publick in general, and having a desire for the extension of knowledge, and the encouragement of literature, amongst the people of the United States as well the Historical accounts of the vast country to the westward as other parts. And having had a cursory view of a manuscript presented by Mr D. T. Madox, giving some account of the Missouri, and its extensive uncultivated regions. I have no hesitation in saying agreeable to the information I have had of that country, that it exhibits a very correct statement of the same, and will in my opinion prove interesting to the reader, and advantageous to those who become adventurers to that country.

STEPHEN TRIMMER.

APOLOGY.

THE following pages are published at the request of a distinguished fellow citizen now in the service of his country. The notes were taken during a tour through the country, which they attempt to describe, in the most unfavorable season of the year—amidst difficulties which precluded a full and complete investigation of the subjects introduced; and which is now compiled under circumstances not very favourable to successful composition.

To these causes many of their imperfections may with truth be ascribed; many more to the want of talents and information in the writer.

The Map of the Missouri Territory, originally intended to accompany this publication, is necessarily omitted for the want of an Engraver.

Paris, Kentucky, Nov. 9th 1817.



INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS,

To a Friend at the City of Washington.

I had just returned, my dear friend, from a pedestrian tour through the wilds of the Missouri. when I received your missive . . . and I had fondly hoped that your solicitude on the subjects of our former correspondence was subsided; but your anxiety seems increased by disappointment rather than diminished by delay.

You require that I should give you a more detailed account of the Geographical, Agricultural, Commercial, and Statistical relations of this interesting section of the American union; but you have not rightly appreciated the difficulties attending such an undertaking . . . A tour through these immense regions, unaided by scientific apparatus; and that too, in a season of the year when nature was stripped of her verdant robes, and the glories of the forests were laid low, could afford the correspondent but little matter either for the pen or the pencil . . . yet, to the ingenuous friend, in whose bosom no "gall of malignant criticism" resides, I may venture to submit the most insipid effusions of my pen and heart . . . and to exclaim in the language of the philosophic poet—

***** Is ought so fair
In all the dewy landscape of the spring
In the bright eye of Hesper or the morn
In nature's fairest forms, is ought so fair
As virtuous friendship; as the candid blush
Of him who strives with fortune to be just:
The graceful tear that streams for other's woes.

In the investigation of this portion of Louisiana, as well as of most parts of the United States, and particularly of the western country, *Tourists* have afforded but little information, calculated to aid us in a knowledge either of its physical or natural history. They have been either the creatures of land-jobbers, employed to encourage the sale of lands, otherwise unsaleable, or else foreign hirelings, obsequiously volunteering in publications, redundant in the most puerile falsehoods—purposefully designed to destroy if possible, the last assylum of oppressed humanity! And even the Geographers of our own country, either through negligence, or the want of the means of information, have imposed statements on the public contrary to the dignity of truth and science. By both we are left to marvel at impossibilities, and to deplore the want of solid information. The description of a cave, a mound, or a mammoth, may indeed amuse the curious, instruct the ingenious, and gratify the philosopher; but they are poor stuff to feed the laborious part of mankind on long at a time.

You are well apprised, however of the difficulties of accurately describing a country so little known as that west of the Mississippi—a country yet unsurveyed—but partially experimented on either by the Agriculturist, the Geologist, the Botanist, or the Statesman—but, whose generous bosom offers to the researches of each, whatever wealth, curiosity, taste, genius, or a laudable emulation, can excite—a country, in short of all others the best adapted to commercial interests, and the most accessible to the investigations of science, and philosophy, whenever enterprise and industry, shall have removed the obstacles which at present impede their progress.

But whilst I apologise for my own incapacity to do justice to the subject, and for the many errors and defects with which the following sheets may be pregnant, it would be injustice to those who have gone before me not to admit that they must have found an equal, and perhaps a greater number of incongruous materials, which neither they nor myself, could possibly arrange into order and perspicuity.

No country can be accurately described, until it is accurately surveyed—a truth not sufficiently attended to, altho'

the whole science of Geography, as well as political Statistics depend upon it; and however well calculated the arrangements of the government of the United States may be to obviate these objections within the districts to which they hold the right of soil, there is yet one objection even to these judicious regulations.—The Surveyor's department is too frequently retailed out to individuals, but little qualified for such appointments, and consequently incapable of affording the government any considerable information on the topography of their new territories. Statistical Topography, next to the fiscal concerns of a nation, is an object of the highest importance. It was, in a great measure owing to the strict attention paid to this science, that the French nation were enabled, under the most pressing opposition, to prosper in agriculture and in arms. The foreign jealousies which the rising glories of our free country continue to excite, may ere long again involve us in a contest with a rude intruder. But were we under the certain prospects of perpetual tranquility, the interests of science, of commerce, of domestic economy, and of public works all require that every section of the union should be accurately described and delineated.

You will perhaps consider these remarks as a bold and unpardonable digression from the object of this fugitive publication; which ought to be appropriated to the information of the adventure, rather than to speculations of political economy.—And I can only excuse myself by offering them as an apology for the difficulties into which I am reluctantly involved.

But I tire you with what is mere matter of opinion, before I introduce you to the subjects about which that opinion should be employed. If you can excuse the vanity which induced me to exchange the familiarity of epistolary correspondence, for the manner and arrangement of an author, you will afford one glimmer of hope for the success of this feeble effort to disseminate amongst our fellow citizens a part of the information which you so ardently desire.

Adieu.

Le Cache, Nov. 10th, 1817.



LATE ACCOUNT &c.

CHAP. I.

Discovery and Settlement.

THE Missouri Territory constitutes the largest portion of the French dominions in North America, known by the name of Louisiana. That part of it lying near the mouth of the Mississippi river, now the state of Louisiana, in consequence of its contiguity to market, and the facilities of trade, made an earlier progress in population, agriculture, and commerce. The importance of this section of the country was increased too, by other local circumstances; for while it possessed a climate equally congenial, and a soil equally fertile with the other parts, it was more easily defended by the parent country against the depredations of the savages, who continued to wage an unconditional warfare against the infant settlements of the New World.

The discovery of the Gulph of St. Lawrence, and the settlements made by the French on that river about the time that the English were colonising the intermediate country on the Atlantic ocean, induced the former to convert their enterprise into stratagem; and by extending a line of posts up the St. Lawrence along the chain of lakes in the

north and north-west to the head waters of the Mississippi, thence down that river to its mouth, they would have it completely in their power to drive the English off the continent. Accordingly in the year 1680, M. de la Salle, a Frenchman, traversed the country by an inland journey, from Quebec to the Mississippi. He was the first white man who set foot on these devious wilds, till now the haunts of beasts of prey and ferocious savages. His adventurous example was however followed by many of his countrymen, who for seventy years, grew familiar with fatigue, danger and privations, and made a wilderness their own. Whilst the British settlements on the Atlantic coasts were marked as the victims of the tomahawk and the scalping knife, the French soothed, or conciliated into friendship, the numerous tribes of savages that inhabit the immense regions in the north and north-west.

Thus supported by an alliance with the Indians, the French authorities in Canada, opened a communication from the Gulph of St. Lawrence, by the way of the great Lakes to the head waters of the Mississippi, which they descended to its mouth; establishing in their train, a line of posts at convenient intervals, until they had completely surrounded the British colonies, or left them to be the victims of the savages, whom they had excited against them. Causes sufficiently powerful to prevent an extension of the settlements on the one part, and to induce them on the other. Among those in the west made by the French at this early period, was post Vincennes, which, according to M. Volney,

was established in the year 1735, and consequently is nearly as old as Philadelphia.

From this time till the year 1755, when hostilities broke out afresh between the two rival nations, nothing of importance transpired in this part of the continent. Between this period and the year 1763, the political affairs on the continent took a turn; England had defeated the French in Canada, and by the treaty of that year had obtained a relinquishment by that government, of all the territory on the North American continent, east of the Mississippi, emphatically denominated, *the British colonies in North America*.

The country west of the Mississippi, with that part of the Floridas lying west of the Perdido river was still retained by the French government, under the general name of LOUISIANA. This colony, had, however, been transferred to Spain two years before, by a secret treaty, which was now confirmed, and delivered accordingly. It remained under the most bigoted government, which, notwithstanding, exercised towards this particular province the greatest lenity of any in the new world, till the year 1803. By the treaty of St. Ildefonso in 1800, Spain had re-ceded it to France, who sold it to the United States; and which was now formally taken possession of by the constituted authorities of that government.

The difficulty of governing such an immense district of country on the territorial principle; a country measuring upwards of eleven hundred miles from north to south, and an equal, or perhaps a greater extent from east to west—with thinly de-

tached settlements in various directions induced the United States to divide it into two territories. By an act of congress passed in March 1804, "all that portion of country ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies south of the Mississippi territory, and of an east and west line to commence on the Mississippi river, at the 32. degree of north latitude, and to extend west to the western boundary of the said cession, shall constitute the territory of the United States, under the name of the territory of Orleans." When this territory was erected into the State of Louisiana, this northern boundary was extended to the parallel of 33. degrees north till it intersects the Red river, thence South on the meridian till it strike the Sabine, which is its western boundary to the Gulph of Mexico.

By the twelfth section of the act of congress before quoted, "The residue of the province of Louisiana, ceded to the United States shall be called the district of Louisiana;" since changed to that of the Missouri Territory; which is the subject of this memoir.

CHAP. II.

Extent and Boundaries.

If we consider the Missouri territory in its whole extent, and as constituting the remainder of Louisiana, we shall find a country, though vague and indefinite in its boundaries, twice as large as the

whole of the Atlantic states put together. Such a description, however it may be connected with future subjects of political enquiry, has nothing to do with this sketch of that territory.

I shall therefore define its boundaries by the legal settlements within the limits to which the Indian title is extinguished. Under this aspect it will be found to be situated between 33. and about 42. degrees north latitude; and between 10. and 17. degrees west longitude from the city of Washington. Bounded on the east by the Mississippi river, on the west by the Osage purchase, from a point three hundred miles up the Missouri, running due south to the Arkansas, thence including the legal settlements, till it intersects the northern boundary of the state of Louisiana. In this extent, it will measure from north to south upwards of six hundred miles; from east to west upwards of four hundred miles—more than four times as large as any state in the union.

Recapitulation.—If we take, then the Mississippi river for its limit on the east, the parallel of 42 degrees north latitude, on the north, the range of mountains which separate the waters of the Mississippi from those of the Pacific Ocean, on the west, and the northern boundary of the State of Louisiana in latitude 33 degrees north, on the south; we shall have a district containing about 400,000 square miles! six times as large as the State of Kentucky.

The section north of the Missouri river, and that south of the Arkansas, are each sufficient to form a considerable state. But the intermediate country: lying between the Missouri and the Arkansas, in-

cluding the French and Spanish settlements and the Osage purchase, constitutes the principal body of this new territory; and may be considered, next to the State of Louisiana, the most valuable tract in the valley of the Mississippi.

I give these as the supposed, and not the actual limits of the territory:—Because they include the whole of the settlements to which the Indian title is or will probably be extinguished in any short time and because, they contain the tract of country to which my observations and researches have been more particularly applied, and which is now exciting so much interest in every part of the United States as well as in Europe.

It is here, indeed, that we see the reality of Mr. Jefferson's remark in his inaugural speech to congress; that "we have land enough in the West for the thousandth, and ten thousandth generation"—&c. and which is daily converted to the noblest purposes, and becoming an assylum for oppressed humanity.

CHAP. III.

Situation and Aspect.

If we take a mean latitude between the northern and southern extremities of this territory, it will be found that the countries with which this section of the United States corresponds, are those the most celebrated for the variety and richness of their productions. In America, they are the middle parts.

o Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky ; Santa-fee in Mexico—Andalusia in Spain ; Syracuse in the Island of Sicily ; Tunis on the Mediterranean ; the Cape of Good Hope in Africa ; and Japan in Asia.

The Mississippi river, after receiving the Missouri from the west, continues for several hundred miles, as if courting the reception of other tributary streams, to approximate to the east ; till meeting the beautiful Ohio, it rolls in a serpentine curve, bending westwardly again to the mouth of the Arkansas, nearly on the same meridian with the mouth of the Missouri. The distance between the mouths of these two rivers on the meridian is about three hundred and eighty miles ; by the meanders of the Mississippi it is nearly seven hundred miles. The face of the country east of this meridian about one hundred miles in its greatest breadth is generally level, sometimes swampy and uninhabitable, but well timbered. Hence we have a pretty correct idea of the form of this territory within the prescribed limits ; which, but for the curvature of the Mississippi on the east, would approach nearer to that of an oblong square than to any other geometrical figure. To the west for several hundred miles, the country rises, sometimes abruptly into elevated knobs ; sometimes from regular gradations into level plains ; the whole being disposed into such a proportionable number of hills and dales, of level and inclined plains, as to give to it fertility, variety, healthfulness and beauty.

This is the general aspect of the middle latitudes, which I assumed above in this comparative view.

Or of the country lying between the Missouri and the Arkansas rivers. The country to the north of the former is equally diversified, being interspersed with prairies or meadows, which produce no timber, covered with a luxuriant growth of herbaceous plants and grass for grazing cattle. These prairies belong to the alluvial formation. Many of them are low, wet, level, rich, and exhibit the appearance of recent formation; others, are elevated nearly to a height of the surrounding country, and have the appearance of great antiquity. That part of the territory lying south of the Arkansas partakes of the variegated aspect of that portion of the Mississippi valley within the interior angle formed by the Red river and the main body of waters that wash this valley.

In order to complete the aspect of the country north of the Missouri river, it will be necessary to notice a peculiarity in the texture of the surface. Ascending the river on this side from St. Charles, there is a natural levee, or embankment, rising twenty or thirty feet above high water, which keeps the river within its channel, and which rolling down to a level with the plain beyond it, is generally washed by ravines on its exterior base. These ravines, in eager pursuit of the river, break through the immense mound of light soil, forming chasms, narrow, deep and dangerous. The country beyond these has a wavering surface, varied by ridges which separate the running streams that irrigate the valley.

Within the assumed limits of this territory, there are neither lakes nor mountains of any size, except a small range of the latter which lie between the

Osage and St. Francis rivers.. It is however, sheltered on the north-west from the chilling blasts that blow from these immense frozen regions by a ridge of mountains of considerable elevation.

CHAP IV.

Rivers and Navigation.

There is perhaps, no country in the world, the state of Louisiana excepted, so well supplied with navigable rivers as the Missouri territory. It is washed on the whole of its eastern limit by the majestic Mississippi, bearing on its bosom the wealth of the western world ; meandering between the latitudes of thirty five and forty two degrees of north latitude, pour the rapid Missouri and Osage; parallel to these southward, glide the St. Francis & White rivers ; further southward still, is the beautiful Arkansas which runs obliquely seven hundred miles from north-west to south-east, through the finest part of the territory.

But a more minute and methodical enumeration and description of them will be necessary to a thorough knowledge of their grandeur, beauty and utility.

In the first rank of these stands the mighty Mississippi, which, whether it be considered with respect to the quantity of water it pours into the ocean, or the extent of the territory it pervades, is second to none on the globe. It occupies a space of near twenty degrees of latitude, and with its tributary

streams about forty five degrees of longitude; pervading all that vast plain, bounded westwardly by the snow or rocky mountains bordering on the Pacific Ocean, and eastwardly by the western range of the Aleganies—embracing with its confluent streams upwards of thirty millions of square miles ! So profoundly were the imaginations of the aborigines impressed with the vast extent of its ramifications, the immense fountains which supply its ever rolling tide, and the increasing majesty with which it advances towards the Ocean, that they conferred upon it the distinguished appellation of **FATHER OF WATERS.**

The navigation of this river is so well known that an account of it here would be vain and unnecessary. Suffice it to say, that it is at all times passable for the largest vessels of inland navigation.

Among the rivers that swell the Mississippi; and next to it in majesty, is the Missouri. This river has been so amply described by Lewis and Clarke that I shall only give that portion of it which lies between its confluence with the Mississippi, in latitude 38°. 55' ; and Blackrock, three hundred miles up it. At the mouth of this river is an Island of alluvial formation, occasioned by the deposition of sediment brought down the Missouri, & which, being arrested by the transverse current of the Mississippi, is deposited here. The channel passes on both sides of the Island ; and always admits of an easy and safe passage in descending, & when the Mississippi is highest, it facilitates the entrance in ascending. The rapidity of its current however, which is about four miles an hour, renders

great diligence necessary in both cases, and in the latter, it requires likewise much labour. But these difficulties are all surmounted by the dexterity of navigators, who transport with great profit the merchandise of New Orleans several hundred miles against the current.

This river is 870 yards wide at its mouth, and varies but little in its width or depth as high up as Blackrock. Its banks are generally more abrupt and elevated than the banks of the rivers on the east of the Mississippi, and consequently less liable to inundation by the annual flood from above. These floods generally commence about the first of March, and continue from six weeks to two months—but are often variable both in the time of their appearance and their extent. The water of this river is never clear, and at this time it assumes a dark muddy colour which renders its taste very unpleasant.

The Missouri has a number of tributary streams which rise principally on the south side. There are a sufficient number, however on the north, to give variety and convenience to the country. Between St. Charles and Boons settlement may be reckoned, Osage woman's river, Charette river, Otter river, May river, Little and great Monitou rivers, Good woman's river, below Boon's Salt works, and the two Charitous, on which the principal settlements in that country have been made, and which is now becoming the new bee-hive of the territory. This river is navigable for small craft a considerable distance. Those on the south, are Bon Homme, St. John's, Buffaloe, Gasconade, Osage, Salt river opposite the mouth of the Great Moni-

rou, and Mine river nearly opposite Boon's Settlement. All these rivers will become of considerable importance to the country which they irrigate; but the Osage river 133 miles from the mouth of the Missouri, is the largest and the most navigable. Its course is from the south west, 197 yards wide at its mouth, deep and gentle, and navigable for small craft for several hundred miles. Its principal branches which afford navigation are the Nangira, Grand river, Fork river, Cook's and Vermillion rivers. On the Nangira, about twenty miles from its mouth, there is a curious cascade of more than one hundred and fifty feet fall in the distance of four hundred yards; the water issues from a large spring, and is precipitated over three different ledges of rocks, and falling to the bottom, is collected into a beautiful basin, from whence it flows into this river, a considerable stream.*

* There is a curious and romantic tradition among the Indians respecting this cascade—Many moons before the white people visited this country, there resided on these waters two tribes of Indians—The Kansas, or Great hunters; and the Menapaz, or the war-like. . . . The chief of the latter had an only daughter—Nangira, or the beautiful—Her father was old and worn down in war and in the chase.—and her mother was already gone to prepare a banquet for him where the Great Spirit had appointed his eternal hunting ground—Nangira had no friend but her aged parent—often had the gallant youths of her own and the neighbouring tribes, besought the old man with presents of Buffalo tongues and Beaver skins, for the hand of Nangira—And often had the old chief consented—But Nangira would not—She ran to the cliffs; & looked towards the world of spirits—She had loved Pozcuco, who had been slain in battle, by the enemy of her tribe, the young chief of the Kansas—The war-whoop was still echoing, and the poisoned arrows were still flying, when the father of Nangira fell!—and the Menapaz fled to the mountains for safety.

Among the tributary streams of the Mississippi, the Arkansas ranks next to the Missouri. Its length is nearly two thousand miles and is navigable at proper seasons for at least one thousand miles. It is six hundred yards wide at its mouth; is deep, gentle and transparent. There is no river in the world whose navigation is more easy and safe. It may be ascended in loaded boats at the rate of three hundred miles in twelve days. It has neither rapids, nor dangerous rocks; and its shallows are hard bottomed, wide and naturally kept clear by the current. It is as beautiful as the Seine, and wants nothing but the hand of enterprise and industry to adorn and beautify its fertile banks with farms and villages.

For eight or nine hundred miles from its mouth it receives no considerable streams owing to the vicinity of the waters of the Missouri, the Kansas and the White river on the one side, and those of the Atchita and Red river on the other. The

The father and the lover were no more—and Nangira had nothing left to hope for or to enjoy—She fled to the cliffs, and casting a longing look to the world of spirits, precipitated herself down the craggy steep—she was dashed in pieces!—The sympathising rocks gushed out a flood of tears, which flow to this day over the body of Nangira—Hence the name of the cascade and of the river that washes its base.

"Unmoved, unconquered, bow'd to fates decree,
She taught in chains the lesson to be free."

Aikin Ep. on women.

In the Spirit of Nangira, a Lacedæmonian woman being asked by her master what she understood? Replied "How to be free." And on his afterwards requiring of her something unworthy she put herself to death.

Valerius Maximus

chief rivers that fall into it are, the Verdigris, Ne-gracka, Canadian & Grand rivers. Many of these have their sources in springs strongly impregnated with salt—Below the mouth of these rivers the flat lands are finely tessellated with bayous forming a number of islands on either side of the Arkansas. There is a remarkable communication between this and the White river, connecting them together some distance from the Mississippi by means of a channel or bayou, called the Cut-off with a current setting alternately into the one or the other, as the flood in either happens to predominate.

White river was but little known till lately; it joins the Mississippi about twenty miles above the Arkansas, in latitude thirty four degrees north. It is one of the most eligible rivers in this country, and will at some future day become important. It rises in the Black mountains which separate the waters of the Arkansas from those of the Missouri and Mississippi. Several of its branches interlock with those of the Osage river, the Merameck, and the St. Francis. It is navigable about eight hundred miles without any considerable interruption—The whole of this distance may be made in barges of considerable burden.

The waters of this river are limpid and beautiful, the current gentle, and even in the driest times is plentifully supplied from the numerous and excellent springs which are every where to be found. It is not less remarkable for the many considerable rivers which it receives in its course—Of these, the Black river is the largest; it enters on the north-east side, about four hundred miles up, and is itself

navigable with small craft for some distance, receiving in its course a number of handsome rivers, as the Current, Eleven Point, and Spring rivers. All of which are of considerable beauty and utility. Spring river however, merits a more particular description—It issues forth suddenly, from an immense spring two hundred yards in width, affording an uninterrupted navigation thence to its mouth, where it contracts its width to sixty yards and becomes much deeper. It is about fifty miles in length. This is full of the finest fish. Besides these, the White river receives the Eaux Cache about one hundred miles in length; the James river one hundred and twenty; and the Rapid John from a hundred to a hundred and fifty miles long.

Until now the country watered by these rivers had only been traversed by Indians and hunters, and may be considered as still unexplored. In my Geological and Topographical view of the country I shall give this and other parts of the territory, the least known, a more particular description.

Seventy-five miles above the mouth of White river the St. Francis discharges itself into the Mississippi. This river would be as commodious and navigable as any other of its size but for its sluggish current which creeps so tardily, that the drift wood grows together, forming immense rafts, that meeting with obstructions, in their slow descent, lodge from side to side insuperable barriers to its navigation, for any considerable distance, or with craft of any considerable burden. The river is however long, deep, and majestic; and when enterprise and industry inhabit the fertile plains in its vicinity, it

will be easily rendered subservient to the interests of commerce and agriculture. The lands through which it runs are of alluvial formation, rich, mariy, saponaceous and highly productive in timber.

The South-western branch rises with the waters of White river, and the north-eastern, which is the principal branch, interlocks with Big river, the Merameck, and runs nearly parrallel with the Mississippi in its whole length, seldom receding more than fifty miles. Above the fork, the main branch is a beautiful limpid stream; but below, though increased in size by several large rivers, the current becomes slow and lazy. From the flatness of the country between this river and Cape Girardeau, its tributary streams loose themselves in large morasses forming ponds or lakes in miniature—the principal of which has its source near Big Prairie, eight or ten miles north-west of New Madrid . . . The St. Francis, in high water, generally overflows its banks, on that side to a great distance—The western bank is higher, and irrigated by rolling streams, is much less liable to inundation.

The mouth of the Merameck river is forty miles below that of the Missouri; and heads with that of the St. Francis, and Gasconade. It affords excellent navigation to its source, a distance of nearly three hundred miles. The source of this river may be considered a curiosity in natural history—It is a spring lake, formed from fountains issuing immediately around the spot, and concentrating in a pool of considerable extent, depth and beauty. This pool is supplied with a variety of excellent fish; and the country in its vicinity will become an ob-

ject to future purchasers, who may wish to unite a romantic, with a fertile and convenient situation. Big river is its principal branch.

About one hundred miles from the estuary of the Missouri it is joined by the Gasconade, which may be ascended in small craft about the same distance. It passes through a hilly country, and is full of shoals and rapids, which impede, in a great measure, its navigation. /

The section south of the Arkansas is watered by the Ouachita, the principal branch of the Red river. And although that portion above the line of demarkation between this territory, and the state of Louisiana, is not navigable for boats of any considerable tonnage, the waters are pure, and well adapted to the various kinds of water machinery.

In what is called the Mississippi valley, which I shall more particularly describe in the next chapter, there rises few or no running springs or rivulets—It is frequently intersected by bayous, or communications from one water course to another, which afford in high water, great facilities to inland navigation.

Recapitulation. Having enumerated and described in as concise and accurate a manner as possible, the principal rivers which give variety, beauty and utility to this important section of the western country; a review of their relative situations and importance will finish the outline.

1. *The Missouri*—What the Ohio is to the states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana on the east of the Mississippi, the Missouri will be to an equal district and population on the

west. These two rivers may be considered as the wings to the body of the great valley of the Mississippi.

2. The Arkansas is equal to the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers.

3. The White river is equal to the Tennessee.

4. The Osage river is equal to the Kentucky river.

5. The St. Francis is equal to the Wabash.

The States of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Tennessee are watered by five large rivers, the Ohio, Tennessee, Cumberland, Wabash, and the Kentucky river; while the Missouri Territory alone is watered by an equal number, the Missouri, the Arkansas, White, Osage and St. Francis rivers. Whether we consider these rivers as to their length, situation, or navigation, the latter will individually, out rank the former.

CHAP. V.

Soil.

In examining the internal structure of the soil of this country, it offers to the investigation of the Geologist, the greatest variety of earths of any district of the same extent yet explored. In attempting an account of these earths, I shall confine myself principally to those of the most striking characteristics and the greatest utility.

1. The Calcareous, or limestone region.—2. The

Silicious, or sandy region.—3. The Alluvial formation.

The first of these, the limestone region, terminates abruptly about twenty miles below Cape Girardeau, and thirty-five above the mouth of the Ohio. In ascending from the bed of the larger water courses, the first stratum is a horizontal limestone rock, covered with argillaceous earth, or clay; next is the bottom land of alluvial formation, of unequal extent and quality; but generally fertile and productive; succeeding to these, is a tabular formation of alluvion, surmounted upon a base of clay, composed of loam earth and a fine light rich soil.

These tables, or second bottoms, are, on the Missouri river and its tributary waters, more or less intermixed with sand which is not found in the limestone regions of Kentucky and Tennessee. This sandy soil exists, however in that fertile region in the state of Ohio, emphatically denominated the "Miami country," and which according to Doctor Drake, is inferior to no part of the United States. In fact, the congeniality of this kind of soil is so well attested by numerous observations and experiments, both on the Miami and the Missouri, that none but the ignorant will be disposed to doubt of its value.

The calcarious regions which surmount the whole, are more variable in their surface, and unequal in their quality. They extend indefinitely from thirty-seven degrees north latitude, on the waters of the Missouri and the Mississippi—Sometimes spreading into level and inclined plains; sometimes broken into hills and dales—here and

there rich and productive; and again sterile and untillable.

The tract of country north of the Missouri, is less hilly than that on the south side, but there is a much greater proportion of prairie land in the former than in the latter. The Missouri bottoms, alternately appearing on one side or the other of the river, are of the finest kind for three hundred miles up, and generally covered with heavy timber. Those on the Mississippi are generally extensive and rich but not so well wooded; they are in fact a continued succession of the most beautiful prairies, or natural meadows.

On the south of the Missouri river, till you arrive at the termination of the limestone district, you traverse the three classes of soil before discriminated; that is to say, the bottom lands of recent alluvion; the second bottoms or table land of more ancient formation, and the elevated hills and plains of primitive masses of marl and granite.

The section just described is properly the Missouri country; because it includes its tributary waters north and south; and because it includes the whole of the southern region of the limestone country west of the Mississippi, and within the limits here assumed.

To review the whole of this section It will be found to possess a soil equally fertile and productive, variable and eligible, with any of the same latitude in the western country.

I am now to enter upon the description of a plain of alluvial formation, stretching itself with scarcely any interruption, from thirty-seven degrees north

latitude to the Bellize. This flat may be considered as the bay of the great valley of the Mississippi. On an average it is about thirty miles wide, and with hardly an exception, is without a hill or a stone. The whole of this valley must have been at some remote period, the successive bed of this mighty river, which exhibits the obvious signs of a gradual approximation to the east; and unless its progress should be arrested by the approach of the tyrant man, it may one day discharge its inexhaustible sources in the Atlantic ocean at the St. Mary's—forcing the immense rivers which roll between this point and lake Ponchatrain, to become tributary to its mighty flood. While the intervening hills and plains, carried down by the current and deposited below, shall fill up the watery interval with new alluvion, and what is now occupied by monsters of the deep be a fit residence for man: while the fertile valleys which it leaves behind, shall become the granary of half the world.

On leaving the uplands at cape Girardeau, we enter what is called the great swamp: though it does not properly possess that character. The timber is not such as is usually found in swamps, but consists of fine oak, ash, olive, linn, (linden,) beech and poplar of enormous growth. The soil is a rich black loam. In the fall it is nearly dry; the road which passes through it is muddy only in particular places at this season; but during high water it is extremely dangerous and disagreeable to cross. The horse sinks at every step to the belly in water and loose soil; and in places entirely covered, the unwary traveller but for the marks on the

trees, would be in danger of being lost in the trackless morass. This swamp is sixty miles in length, and four broad, widening as it approaches the St. Francis. In the season of high flood, the Mississippi and the river just mentioned have a complete connection by means of this low land. After crossing the swamp there commences a ridge of high land, running parallel with the Mississippi, bounding what is called Tywapety bottom; this ridge in approaching the St. Francis westwardly, subsides. In passing over it we appear to be in a hilly country possessing springs and rivulets of freestone water. The soil here is variable—sterile and fertile alternately, but exceedingly well timbered.

It is a fact worthy of notice, that between the mouths of the Merameck and the St. Francis rivers, a distance of five hundred miles, no river, of any consequence enters into the Mississippi; the considerable rivers fall either to the south-west into the St. Francis, or to the south-east into the Missouri.

The soil of the prairies with which this country abounds, is more light and loose than in the woodlands, and has a greater mixture of sand on the surface; but when wet it assumes every where a deep black colour and an oily appearance. By digging through a thin stratum of sand, you come to an argillaceous clay of a dirty yellow, and saponaceous quality—This is the substratum of the whole country, which proves to be a rich marl; perhaps the deposite of very ancient alluvion.

After leaving the valley, progressing westward

ly, the country for several hundred miles exhibits all the variety which is to be found in elevated plains, broken hills, and delightful valleys; charmingly intersected with creeks and rivulets of pure freestone water.

To conclude this chapter, it will be necessary to review the country and appropriate to each section its peculiar kind of soil. From the termination of the limestone range below Cape Girardeau, running parallel with the Missouri and including it and the Mississippi above, you will find large tracts of swamps, prairie and woodland—of these, some are low and wet, some finely adapted to meadows; others high, extensive and fertile, and again contracted into small slips. Going south and west from this section, you have the Mississippi valley on your left hand, where all the soil is fertile, but much of it too low for cultivation till drained and *leveed*—On your right is an elevated country, less intermixed with prairies and, here and there poor, sandy and unproductive; but generally consisting of large tracts of rich lands; In fact it is unnecessary to say that a country so extensive and so situated ought to possess every variety of soil to be found in the most favoured climate.

CHAP. VI.

Botany.

To give a scientific description of the indigenous vegetable productions of this country, would

far exceed the design of this publication and the abilities of the writer. I shall therefore, under this article confine myself to such as are distinguished for their usefulness, or are characteristic of the fertility of the soil, and congeniality of the climate. And even on these I shall be under the necessity of borrowing from those who instructed in the science, and inspired with the theme have written on the glories of the American Flora.

No botanist has hitherto sufficiently explored the borders of the Mississippi and its western waters accurately to describe the riches and beauties of their vegetable productions This country, which possesses such a variety of soil and congeniality of climate ;—calcareous ridges, silicious plains, saponaceous bottoms ; basking in the full radiance of the most prolific summers ; may naturally be expected to contain a variety of useful and ornamental plants and flowers—————Where

“New woods aspiring clothe their hills with green,
 “Smooth slope the lawn, the gray rock peeps between :

“Relenting nature gives her hand to taste,
 “And health and beauty crown the laughing waste.”
 Bot. Garden.

The most generally diffused species among the timber trees are the oak (the quercus) of which there are the following varieties—the Black oak, white oak, red oak, willow oak, chesnut oak, black jack oak, and ground oak—Many of these grow to an enormous size in this country. But the poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) may be considered as

the monarch of the calcarious regions on the Mississippi and the Missouri. It is frequently found here from six to eight feet in diameter, and from sixty to seventy without a limb. The black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) grows to an amazing bulk, and is one of the most valuable timber trees of the forest. The *Juglans alba*, or white walnut; the Pacan tree, which is probably a variety of the latter—Don Ulloa, in his *Noticias Americanas*, mentions it by the name of Pacanas. It bears a nut much more palatable and healthy than either the walnut, or hiccory nut. The hiccory, several varieties—Sugar maple (*Acer saccharinum*) wild cherry (*Prunus Virginiana*) buck-eye, white and blue ash (*Fraxinus Americana*) the elm, the sycamore, or button wood, the sweet gum, linden, or tilia, occupy the rich marly soils in every part of the territory. The tulip tree, and sassafras laurel, so impatient of cold as to appear as dwarfs in the northern regions, on the warm banks of the Arkansas rise into stateliness and beauty.

The second table of alluvial soil running parallel with the rivers and rising from the wet savannas into extensive lawns and swelling hills, are generally covered with open or entangled woods except where the industry of man has converted them into tillage. In these rich tracts of marl grow the lofty palmetto, the ever green oak, the laurel benzoin, the common laurel, and the red cedar. The straight silvery columns of the papaw fig, rising to the height of twenty or thirty feet, and crowned by a canopy of broad sinuated leaves, form a striking picture in this delightful scenery; which wants nothing but

the fragrant blossoms of the magnolia, and the golden fruit of the orange, to realize the fabled traditions of the ancient groves of the Hesperides.

The magnolia grandiflora is not found much above the mouth of the Arkansas; and here it is not seen in that towering magnificence which it attains in the more southern regions. As this beautiful tree is not known in the northern latitudes a description of it here will not fail to be interesting to my readers.

In the rich marly soils of the Mississippi, it is frequently seen towering above a hundred feet, with a trunk perfectly erect, supporting a shady conical head of dark green foliage—From the center of the coronets of leaves that terminate the branches; expands a large rose-shaped blossom of alabaster white, which is succeeded by a crimson cone containing the seed of a beautiful coral red colour; and these falling from their cells, remain for several days suspended from the seed vessels by a silky thread, six inches or more in length, emitting the most fragrant smell; so that whether in this state, or in blossom, it is inferior to none for grandeur and beauty.

The swamps and shallow splashies may at all times be distinguished by the crowded ranks of cane the tupeloe tree and the white cedar. This last is, perhaps, the most picturesque tree in all America. Four or five enormous buttresses, or rude pillars, rise from the ground and unite in a kind of arch at the height of seven or eight feet, from the centre of which there springs a straight column eighty or ninety feet without a branch: it then spreads into a flat, umbrella shaped top, cov-

ered with finely divided leaves of the most delicate green. This platform is the secure abode of the eagle and the crane; and the oily seeds contained in its cones are the favorite repasts of the paroquets that are continually fluttering around.

But it is on the warm banks of the Arkansas and the Ouachita, that the riches and beauties of Flora are principally displayed—It is here that the unfolding verdure of the extensive praires and wide savannas; the solemn magnificance of the primeval forests, and the wild exuberance of the teeming swamps, offer to the astonished admiration of the Botanist, every thing, that by colour, by fragrance and by form, can delight the senses and fix the attention.

In this country vegetation of every kind is gigantic—the cypress, the cedar, the oak, the plumb tree, the cherry, the sassafras laurel, the mulberry for the silk worm, and above all the indigenous olive flourishes on the White river, indefinitely south. I do not know if this beautiful and valuable tree, which rises to the height of one hundred feet, and whose fruit I have seen, will produce oil equal to that of Provence in the south of France—But I am confident it will answer well for the manufacturing of soap, for lamps, and for tanning leather. Should this fail, however, I think the olive of Europe would succeed here. Madder, wild indigo, and the yellow tree for dyeing grow spontaneously. The gum tree, which yields a resin highly aromatic, & the lemon tree, which produces a pleasant acid, all flourish here.

After passing the first section of elevated plains

D.

westwardly from the Mississippi valley, the hills produce the growth common to such soils: such as the chesnut, black oak, and the dogwood, or *cornus Florida*—and the important family of pines, range themselves in towering majesty, at a convenient distance on the whole of the margin of this fertile region.

Among the ornamental plants, are the *spigilia*, or Indian pink, the beautiful *dionea*, the delicate *mimosa* or sensitive plant, and the *pyrola* * ; besides the numerous species of vines and wild cleimbers that display their luscious fruits, and fragrant blossoms on the summits of the tallest trees.

I cannot enumerate all the varieties of the vine—Those which I have ascertained to be the most productive in a state of nature will be sufficient—They are, the prune grape, the mountain grape, ripe in June; the red, white, black, and violet, or bullet grape of Florida . . . In short this seems to be the natural nursery of *Bachus*. But I shall treat of this subject more fully hereafter—In the meantime, I will relieve the reader, from the dulness of prosaical description with a poetic effusion from the inimitable Darwin.

“ Round her tall elms with dewy fingers twine
 “ The gadding tendrils of the adventurous vine ;
 “ From arm to arm, in gay festoons suspend
 “ Her fragrant flowers, her graceful foliage bend ;
 “ Swell with sweet juice her vernal orbs, and feed

* *Pyrola*, or ever bitter-sweet . . . This herb made into a decoction with the flower of sulphur, is said to be a sovereign remedy for the cancer . . . The application is by bathing the parts affected in a decoction of this herb and the flower of sulphur, and taking a small portion inwardly.

" Shrined in transparent pulp her pearly seed ;
" Hang round the orange all her silver bells,
" And guard her fragrance with Hesperian spells ;
" Bud after bud her polished leaves unfold,
" And load her branches with successive gold.

Bot. Gard. part 1st.

CHAP. VII.

Agricultural Productions.

In so new a country as this territory, Agriculture cannot be expected to be carried to any great degree of perfection. The farmer must necessarily confine himself to the raising of articles of home consumption before he attempts to supply the staples of foreign markets. The exports of this country, are, however, much greater than its infant state would seem to demand ; though but yet small when compared with the capacity of the soil, climate, and future population.

On the Missouri and Mississippi above its mouth, all the articles of agriculture common to the states of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, are produced in the greatest abundance and to the greatest perfection. It possesses all the advantages of those states, and many more which they have not. Its proximity to the great mart of New Orleans, will enable the produce of this country to be the first in arriving at market ; and consequently to obtain the highest prices.

The soil and climate of no part of the United

States are better adapted to the growth of wheat, rye, barley, Indian corn, oats, and every species of grain. Rice, cotton and indigo may be cultivated in the southern parts to great advantage; and no part of the western country surpasses it for the culture of tobacco, hemp and flax.

The dry, fertile prairies yield all the products of the farm that require a rich soil, in great abundance. Those of wet, loamy soil form inexhaustable meadows for hay, and pasturage for grazing cattle. The Egyptian oats, timothy, blue grass, and the white and red clover, succeed admirably. Wheat, rye and oats, sometimes receive too luxuriant a growth, which occasions them to be blown down and spoiled. The sweet, or Bermudian potatoe, is cultivated to great perfection in all the sandy regions; while the Irish potatoe, like the people whose name it bears, succeeds wherever it is cultivated. Cotton sufficient for home consumption, grows in a much higher latitude on the west than on the east of the Mississippi: owing in some measure to the peculiar quality of the soil, but chiefly to the north western mountains, which defend it from the chilling blasts with which the prevailing winds are pregnant. But on the White river and Arkansas, this article is raised to a perfection equal to that of Louisiana; and will, with rice, indigo and tobacco, probably become the staples of this part of the territory.

Except the orange, and a few others not acclimated, fruits of every species known in the United States flourish to great advantage. There are no where to be found finer apples, peaches, pears, cher-

Apples, plums, quinces, grapes, or melons, than in this country. The peach particularly, thrives well on the sandy tracts of the Missouri and Osage rivers. And the country about the Arkansas is said by foreigners, who have made some experiments, to be finely adapted to the production of the fig, the almond, the olive and the apricot.

Gardening though properly belonging to the subject of Horticulture, I shall include in this. These, about St. Charles, S. Louis, St. Genevieve, Cape Girardeau, New Madrid, and all the older settlements, produce in the greatest abundance and to the greatest perfection, all the culinary vegetables that are found in their latitudes. The cabbage is thought to grow to greater perfection, on the Missouri than in the states of Kentucky and Ohio. On the Mississippi vegetables of every description are known to arrive to perfection earlier than they do on the same parallels in any other country. The mind of the reader of taste will be relieved and pleased by the following appropriate quotation from our countryman Mr. Barlow.

“ Beneath tall trees in livelier verdure gay,
 “ Long level walks an humble garb display ;
 “ The infant corn unconscious of its worth,
 “ Points the green spire, and bends the foliage forth;
 “ Sweetened on flowery banks, the passing air
 “ Breathes all the untasted fragrance of the year ;
 “ Unbidden harvests o’er the regions rise,
 “ And blooming life repays the genial skies.
 “ Where circling shores around the gulf extend,
 “ The bounteous groves with richer burdens bend ;
 “ Spontaneous fruits the uplifted palms unfold,

- " The beauteous orange waves a load of gold ;
 " The untaught vine, the wildly wanton cane,
 " Bloom on the waste, and clothe the enarbour'd
 plain,
 " The rich pimento scents the neighbouring skies,
 " And wooly clusters o'er the cotton rise.
 " Here in one view, the same glad branches bring
 " The fruits of autumn and the flowers of spring ;
 " No wintry blasts the unchanging year deform,
 " Nor beasts unsheltered fear the pinching storm ;
 " But vernal breezes o'er the blossoms rove,
 " And breathe the ripened juices through the grove.

CHAP. VIII.

Towns and Villages.

ST. LOUIS is the principal town, and seat of the territorial government. It was formerly called *Pain Court*, from the privations of the first settlers. It is situated in latitude thirty eight degrees twenty minutes north, and in longitude eleven degrees fifty one minutes west from Washington city. It occupies one of the finest situations on the Mississippi, both as to site and Geographical position. The ground on which it stands is not much higher here than the ordinary banks of the river ; but the floods are repelled by a bold shore of limestone rock. The town is built between the river and a second bank ; it consists of three streets running parallel with the river, and a number of others crossing these at right angles. In a disjointed manner, it extends along

the river a mile and a half. Here is a line of works on the second bank, erected for defence against the Indians, supporting several circular towers, twenty feet in diameter and fifteen in height ; with a small stockade fort and a small stone breast work.

Some distance from this line of fortifications up the river, there are several mounds, the remains of antiquity ; which would seem to indicate that this place had, in former times, been the chosen site of a populous city.

St. Louis was first laid out in the spring of 1764, by the remains of a French colony from fort Chartres on the east side of the Mississippi. Here it flourished and has become the parent of the villages of St. Charles, Carondelet, Portage de Sioux, St. John, Bon Homme and St. Ferdinand. The first settlers, by conciliating the affections of the natives, drew all the Indian trade of the Missouri ; and St. Louis still continues to be the emporium not only for this, but a considerable portion of the Illinois territory.

The present population cannot be less than three thousand, and its numbers are daily increasing. The buildings are of wood, generally small and indifferent ; but a number of spacious and commodious stone and brick houses are now erecting. There are in this town, twenty two commercial establishments that do business upon a pretty large scale. Besides two banking institutions with a capital of half a million of dollars. The imports are chiefly made to this place from New Orleans, which is likewise the destination of their exports.

ST. GENEVIEVE is next in consequence to St.

Louis, was laid out in the year 1774, about one mile from the Mississippi, between the two branches of a stream called Gabourie, on a flat of about one hundred acres, of second bottom, or table land. Its direction from St. Louis is a little east of south; and distance sixty-five miles. It is the deposite of several lead mines—Of Mine la Motte, the Mine a Burton, New Diggings, the mines on Big river, and some other—And is, in short, the storehouse, or reciprocal supply and deposite of these mines: furnishing those who work them with necessities and luxuries, and deriving advantage from the trade which this article of commerce procures them.

The population of St. Genevieve, including New Bourbon, and the adjacent settlements, amounts to upwards of twenty-five hundred souls. The houses, like those of St. Louis, are indifferent—But its eligible situation, the fertility of the soil within its vicinity, the richness of the lead mines which depend upon it; all give assurances of its rising progress and its future prosperity.

St. CHARLES is the seat of justice for the district bearing its name. It contains about two thousand inhabitants including the whole of its settlements; a considerable proportion of which are Americans. It is twenty-two miles north of St. Louis, in thirty nine degrees north latitude, and eleven degrees fifty-five minutes west of Washington city.

This village is situated on the north side of the Missouri river, twenty miles from its junction with the Mississippi. The town is laid out upon a nar-

row space, between the river and the bluff, admitting but one street, which is about a mile in length. This place will retain its importance—The excellency of the soil in its neighborhood; the immense country settling to the north and south whose trade must centre here—the advantages which it must derive from the country & settlements above—The facilities of being supplied at a cheap rate with salt, iron, and produce; all combine to give prosperity to its future prospects.

NEW MADRID is situated in Latitude 36 degrees 34 minutes north and nearly on the same meridian with St. Genevieve—Its distance and bearing from St. Louis, is probably about 170 miles south on a straight line; by the river, it is probably 300 miles. It was laid out on the second bank of the Mississippi, in the year 1790, on an extensive scale and an elegant plan; and was chosen as the most eligible site on the river.

This town was originally planned upon a model at once tasty and convenient; it was to extend four miles south and two west from the river, so as to cross a beautiful, lying, deep lake, of the purest spring water, one hundred yards wide, and some miles long; emptying itself by a constant rapid stream through the center of the town. The banks of this lake, called St. Annis, are high, beautiful and pleasant; the water deep, clear and sweet, and well stored with fish; the bottom a clear sand, free from wood, shrubs, or other vegetables. On each side of this delightful lake, streets were to be laid out 100 feet wide, and a road to be continued round it of the same breadth; and this double

front of central streets were in the charter preserved forever for the health and pleasure of the citizens. The same reserve was made on the margin of the Mississippi; so that New Madrid seemed equally calculated for commercial advantages, taste and fashion.

But the earthquakes in 1811,—12 gave a considerable shock to the whole town; it destroyed several buildings, and sunk a part of the first bottom and second table about eighteen inches. New Madrid is beleived by many to have been the centre of this strange concussion. The inhabitants became alarmed, and determined to desert the place altogether.

But it is now about to be restored—The number of inhabitants are not easily ascertained; as they have been flying to and from it, ever since the year 1811; and scatered in various directions thro' a large district. The number, however may be estimated at about twelve hundred; mostly Americans.

New Madrid is the seat of justice for its district.

ARKANSAS is situated sixty miles up the river of that name, and contains six or eight hundred inhabitants, several retail stores, and is in a rapid state of improvement. It was originally a French settlement, and is likely to continue such; as there are at this time propositions before the general government, to establish a colony here by some very distinguished French emigrants. How far Congress will accede to a proposition granting her choice land to foreigners on terms of deferred pay-

ments, to the exclusion of her own citizens we can only predict from former precedents. Qui vult decipi, decipiatur.

HERCULANEUM is situated on the Mississippi, half way between St. Louis and St. Genevieve. The site of this place is extremely romantic ;—At the mouth of Joachin, and on a flat of no great width between the river and the second bottom, lies the town . . . While at each end perpendicular precipices, two hundred feet high, rise almost from the water's edge. This intervally appears to be an opening for the Joachin and the Mississippi. On the top of each of these cliffs shot towers have been erected. The town contains thirty or forty houses, and three or four hundred inhabitants. Several fine grist and saw mills are erected in the neighborhood, and a boat yard established in the village.

Vuide Poche, or Carondelet is situated six miles below St. Louis and contains probably 150 inhabitants.

Harissault on the Missouri is much more populous, and the adjoining country much more thickly populated.

Cape Girardeau. This town is entirely American, and built after the American fashion ; it is in a thriving state, and already contains a number of good houses of brick and stone. The seat of justice for that county is now held at the town of Jackson, ten miles from Penrod's ferry.

St. Michael is a new town, twenty miles from Mine a Burton, and the County seat for St. Genevieve. Franklin is the County seat for Howard

County. Potosi is the seat of justice for Washington County.

Warrington is a small village two miles from Franklin, surrounded by rich lands, and in a flourishing condition.

There are a number of new villages laid out in this country, too unimportant to become the subject of description: though some may one day become the pride and ornament of the counties in which they are situated; but to anticipate their future prosperity would be as vain as building castles in the air. It is a fact, however, that every man in the western country wishes to build a city upon his own farm—Hundreds of villages are laid out that never acquire any other importance but a name.

CHAP. IX.

Lead Mines.

The subject of mines and mineral productions in this country, is, of all others, that with which I am the least capable of investigating with accuracy. In order to a thorough acquaintance with all its ramifications: it would be necessary first to be a Mineralogist, then a miner, and lastly a speculator in the production of the mines. But without waiting for this complicated information, I will give my readers such an account of the Lead Mines of this country as I have been enabled to procure.

The lead mines, or diggings, as they are generally called are scattered over the greater part of the calcareous region before described. How far they

extend to the west is not known; or whether the older region is not as pregnant with silver as this is with lead, is yet to be ascertained.

Mine a Burton, sixty miles south of St. Louis, and forty miles west of St. Genevieve, may be considered as the centre of those that are profitably worked. These mines, are, perhaps, the richest in the known world. They were discovered previous to their being worked, by the ore that was visible in every rivulet, washed, by rain from its original bed. But it was not till a short time previous to the late war that these mines were worked to advantage. During that period they became a source of wealth to the industrious miner, and highly beneficial to the country generally.

The following is an estimate of their annual productions, from the best information of the different Mines, and of the number of labourers employed in them, without including smelters, blacksmiths and others.

Annual Estimate.		lbs. lead. hands.	
Mine a Barton	- - -	50,000	15
New Diggings	- - -	200,000	40
Perry's Diggings,	}	60000	50
Liberty Mines			
Elliott's Diggings	- - -	100,00	20
Mines of Belle Fountain	- - -	300,000	50
Bryan's Diggings	- - -	600,000	70
Richwoods	- - -	75,000	30
Mine a la Motte	- - -	100,000	40
Fourche Courtois	- - -	10,000	15

F.

Mine a Robin, and	}	-	-	-	-	30,000	20
Mine a Joe							
Shaboletth and Cadet, five miles	}	-	-	-	-	475,000	50
from Mine a Burton, say							
Total.						2,000,000	400

This article ought properly to have come under the head of the Statistical View; but as the subjects of that chapter are but imperfectly known, it will necessarily be confined to a recapitulation of the whole. From this, however, some estimate of the riches of these mines may be drawn. When they come to be more extensively worked, there is not a doubt but that they will supply the United States not only with a sufficient quantity for home consumption, but also with an immense surplus for commerce.

CHAP. X.

Salt Works.

On this article, I am likewise much at a loss—but I deem it of much less importance to my readers, to be instructed on the subjects of retailing lead by the pound and salt by the bushel, than in a knowledge of the permanent sources of wealth and enjoyment.

The salt works, are, however, numerous and profitable—some of them belong to individuals, others to the United States; and they not only yield an abundant supply for the consumption of the country, but afford a considerable surplus for com-

merce. The usual price per bushel is one dollar and fifty cents; But this price must be reduced when these inexhaustible sources shall be more extensively worked: For it seems that the whole of the western part of the territory is one entire salt mine. "There exists about one thousand miles up the Missouri," says a celebrated author "and not far from the river, a salt mountain, which is said to be one hundred and eighty miles long and forty-five in width, composed of solid rock salt!"

But the principal salt works are at Boon's Lick and its vicinity about two hundred miles above St. Louis, on the north side of the Missouri. There are about twelve miles from the mouth of Charaton river. The lower salt works are not as profitable or as well worked as those above. What emphatically denominated Boon's Settlement, is about forty-five miles above the lower salt works.

The upper works, or Boon's Lick is now in fine operation and make about one hundred bushels of salt per week. The water is in the greatest abundance, and fully saturated with salt; so that by being more extensively worked they will no doubt yield a profit equal to any in the United States.

The Franklin salt works, promises, to produce an abundant profit.

On the south of the Missouri is Beckneli's and Emmen's works, the water is very strong, but badly operated. They are ten miles from the river and fifteen from Boon's Lick.

These works belong to the United States, and will be leased by them on moderate terms to those who may wish to work them.

Right of Soil. . . . Land Titles.

The right of soil to Louisiana, like that of America generally, was obtained by discovery, conquest, and settlement. In this, France had early acquired a right to the whole of the country bearing that name. And she seems to have kept it more for the purposes of opposition to her great rival, England, than for the local advantages which it procured her. For, as if anticipating her defeat in Canada, she transferred it, in the year 1762 by a secret treaty to Spain, who held it as her most favorite colony, till the year 1800, when it was receded to France by the treaty of St. Ildefonso. This treaty was enforced by that of Madrid, in the succeeding year. From France it passed to the United States, by the treaty of the 30th of April, 1803, with the same extent that it originally had in the hands of France and of Spain.

The right of soil was then, fully vested in the respective governments at the time they exercised their jurisdictions over the territory.

It was by the government of Spain that the greatest number of land titles was granted. Of these, there were two descriptions: First, Donations, or Complete grants—and Second, Settlement or Head rights.

When we consider the despotic character of the Spanish government, and the extent to which she carried her authority in some of the provinces, we are at a loss to account for the remarkable lenity

with which the territorial government of Louisiana was administered. Lands were gratuitously granted in fee simple, and the inhabitants totally exempted from taxation.

Donations to individuals were made for real, or pretended services, and in quantities proportioned to the merit of the claim. Settlement, or Head rights, being for the purpose of strengthening the country by encouraging emigration, was apportioned according to the numbers of the family, including husband, wife, and children—So that matrimony in this country tended not only to happiness, but to wealth. The United States have confirmed all land claims made agreeably to the laws, usages & customs of the Spanish government, prior to the year 1803, provided that the grant shall not secure to the grantee, or his assigns, more than one mile square, together with such other and further quantity as was allowed by the former government to the husband, wife, and family of an actual settler.

All lands in this territory, not disposed of as above by either of the former governments, belong to the United States. For the surveying and disposal of which a Land Office is established at St. Louis, consisting of a Deputy Surveyor General, a Register of the Land Office, and a Receiver of public monies. The Deputy Surveyor General, appoints surveyors under him, and the vacant lands are laid out into Townships, Sections, and Quarter Sections, by lines according with the cardinal points of the Compass.

By an act of Congress, the land sales are to be regulated by proclamation of the President of the

United States. The price is fixed at two dollars per Acre, one fourth to be paid on entering the land, with annual payments of one fourth till the whole be paid. On the first payment a certificate, in the nature of a receipt issues from the land Office, a duplicate of which, when the payment is completed is forwarded on to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, who returns the President's Patent for a full and complete title to the land unincumbered by prior claims, and consequently uninvolved in the masses of litigation.

Out of these lands belonging to the General Government, the sixteenth Section in every Township, is reserved by the United States for the support of schools.

What a difference in the value of a title of land obtained in this territory, and those obtained under the governments of Virginia and North Carolina, in what are now the states of Kentucky and Tennessee! In these, for twenty years, the Land Offices were open to every swindler! whilst the honest adventurer, instead of wealth, independence, or even a home, frequently paid his money for a chain of law suits that entailed poverty upon him and his posterity.

CHAP. XII.

Climate.

An enquiry into the healthiness of the climate of the country to which a man proposes to emigrate,

is generally one of the first that he makes. And it is one so rational, and of such vital importance, that I shall endeavour to give it a candid and perspicuous answer, rather than to pursue the subject through the mazes of philosophical speculation, for which I am equally in want of the disposition, and data. It is vain that we possess wealth, honors, and all the other goods of this world, if we are deprived of that which alone can give us a true relish for the true enjoyment of them, *health*.

One of the greatest men of the age has treated this subject under the head of "all that can increase the progress of human knowledge." I shall treat of it as all that can increase the sum of human happiness.

In so extensive a country as this, it will naturally be expected that the climate is as various as the situation of its parts. Northern and southern, high, and low lands, the margin of large rivers and interior dry plains, will each be acted upon by heat and cold, and an atmosphere peculiar to the nature of their respective situations.

The few observations which have been made in this country have not been sufficiently regular and simultaneous to shew the corresponding and comparative operations of the climate, between this and other countries, or between the different parts of the country itself, to enable us to deduce any particular inference from its effects and influence.

Reasoning, however, from the situation and aspect of the country, and substituting analogy for actual observation and experience, the climate of this country will be found to correspond with those

countries with which I have already compared it in the third chapter of this work, under the article of Situation and Aspect:—with this difference; that the eastern margin composing the Mississippi valley, has no parallel on the globe. That river has, indeed been assimilated to the Nile! and there is one property common to them both, which in some measure justifies the comparison—That is that the Hydrophobia, or canine madness has never been known on the waters of either. But their climate, soil, and vegetable productions are widely different. The Mississippi valley though the largest body of land of recent formation, is original, distinct, and superior in quality to any in the known world. The Patowmac, and that part of the Atlantic coast which skirts the eastern boundaries of Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina, produce but a meagre growth of vegetation; whilst the Mississippi nourishes the most luxuriant forests, thickly set with underwood and cane. These forests, as will be more fully shewn in the article on the cultivation of the grape naturally attract, and keep in action in their vicinity more heat and moisture than countries more open and less productive.

Running springs are but rarely found in the prairies, or on the Missouri; but well-water may be generally obtained by digging 25 or 30 feet. In the rich dry lands west of the Mississippi, springs, and rivulets of excellent water are every where to be met with.

As to the healthiness of the climate generally—Nature seems to have made a pretty equal distribution of her favours throughout this globe. The dis-

parity observable by comparing one country with another has for the most part been occasioned by man. In high, dry situations, and at a distance from the sea coast & large rivers, we enjoy abundance of health & vigour, but have few advantages of wealth. In rich fertile soils and warm climates, we find all the means of growing rich, with less health and enjoyment.

This territory in a state of nature, is generally healthy; but when the rich marly soil, and the borders of the large rivers come to be cultivated; when the vast masses of vegetation which now glow with life and beauty shall be felled and putrified; it will no doubt be infested with the epidemical diseases peculiar to countries similarly situated.

CHAP. XIII.

Cultivation of the Grape.

The subject of this chapter I communicated last summer in a paper addressed to the *Kentucky Society for promoting Agriculture*; from whence it found its way into the public prints. And as the observations it contains are as well adapted to the meridian of St. Louis, as to that of Lexington it cannot but form a valuable addition to this publication.

It has long been a subject of surprise to foreigners as well as to our own country men, that the grape should grow to such great perfection in all the latitudes from 17 to 45 degrees in the old world and that it should be so limited and precarious in

its productions in the New. Nor is our surprise at all diminished, nor our enquiry into the causes of this difference in the growth and product of a single vegetable, at all satisfied, by recollecting that the soil of America is equal, and in many respects superior to that appropriated to similar purposes in other countries. We have all the mean, but none of the extremes either of heat or cold, in which this article is successfully cultivated in other places. And yet, under a temperature which elsewhere is so congenial to its production, as to render it an object of primary importance to the cultivator, but rarely indemnifies him here for his labour; and amounts, in fact; almost to a total neglect of it either for pleasure or profit. Nor can our unsuccessful endeavours to raise the Grape to advantage arise from a want of acquaintance with the methods of cultivating it in other places; since we have amongst us experienced vine dressers from the various parts of the world, in which it is cultivated in the greatest abundance and to the greatest perfection.

We can therefore, refer the causes of our failure, only, to the changeable and multiform nature of our climate, which though less intense in its extremes of heat and cold, is nevertheless, more fluctuating and consequently more unfavourable to the growth of plants, not acclimated, than to such as are indigenous. This is evident from the necessity we are under of accelerating by artificial means, the growth of many culinary vegetables, which our late seasons would retard, or destroy altogether. The Grape, which we cultivate for wine, though

not indigenous to the climate, requires likewise our fostering care to protect its tender shoots from the inclemency of an untoward spring.

The sudden transition of our country from a teeming wilderness to an open champaign; from a state of nature to civilization and refinement, produces in our seasons a sensible change, which the slow progress of other countries rendered imperceptible.

The luxuriant forests that in some measure arrested the effects of the cold winds that blow from the vast uncultivated frozen regions of the north and north west, have retired before the enterprise of our citizens, and given place to open fields and meadows.

What was the work of many centuries in other countries has been the effect of a few years in ours. — These forests absorbed much of the chilling moisture, or counteracted with their native heat, the force of the heavy vapours and benumbing fogs with which these wilds are saturated.

We know that cold is a negative quality, or only the absence of heat; and that vegetables, like other bodies possess the power of attracting and communicating heat to the surrounding atmosphere; and as the attraction of the larger bodies is the greatest, they necessarily absorb a greater quantity of heat, a portion of which is discharged as the atmosphere cools, till an equilibrium is produced upon the whole, which acts equally on every thing within its range. This is obvious from every ones experience—An individual alone in a room without fire, would freeze in a cold day, who, with a hundred

more would be comfortably warm. There would be a perceptible, though not so great a difference between his situation in an open plain and a close wood. In the first case, the temperature of the atmosphere would be moderated by the natural heat of the bodies in the room ; in the last, by the heat absorbed by the larger bodies during the day, which would be communicated, as the air cooled, to the smaller bodies that had absorbed less.

It is obvious then, if this reasoning be correct (& it is strongly corroborated by experience) that the late frosts which happen in spring, are much more fatal to vegetation in an open plain than in a thick forest.—Consequently a vineyard planted in the one situation will rarely succeed at all, and never to advantage ; while in the other it will rarely fail of producing a plentiful crop of Grape. The following facts will more fully illustrate the truth of this position.—Five miles east of Lexington is a vineyard situated in a large plantation, that opens to the north and south about half a mile, and to the east and west a considerable distance. This vineyard, with which the proprietor has taken much pains for eleven years, has never yielded but one crop of Grape. During the last year it has been twice bitten down by the frost. One mile from this is another vineyard, which is differently situated ; being bounded on the south by a luxuriant growth of cherry trees, on the east by a thriving row of cedars, and on the north and west by towering forest trees. This vineyard remains unharmed by the frost, and bears every year a full crop of Grape.

The uniformity of these results from their respective situations, proves that the failure of the grape with us, is owing to local and transient causes, which may be easily and effectually counteracted. For although we cannot force nature in her operations, we may aid and accelerate her productions by artificial means. And a vineyard planted in an oblong square, with two or three rows of apple or cherry trees on each side, will rarely be injured by the frosts. The red cedar, on account of its being an ever-green and bearing a thicker foliage, is probably superior to the fruit trees; as the thicker and more flourishing the surrounding vegetation, the more heat and moisture will be attracted and kept in action in their vicinity.

Under this theory, the Vine dresser has the choice of cultivating with his vineyard, valuable fruit trees, or Hesperian groves—of gratifying his cupidity or his taste. The same reasoning will apply to vineyards planted in town gardens, where the houses, smoke, &c. protect them from the chilling blasts.

The vineyards at Vevay, in Indiana, are sheltered on the north by elevated hills covered with a luxuriant growth of forest trees, and on the south, by the Ohio, whose warm and moist vapours have an appropriate influence in moderating the impending atmosphere. These vineyards have, in a few years enriched the proprietors.—One vine dresser cultivates two Acres and a half, which produce about seven hundred gallons of wine, worth one thousand dollars! besides a sufficient quantity of other articles for family consumption; a greater profit than is made by any other species of Agriculture.

Two years ago, my friend on the Arkansas, made an experiment with the indigenous grape of that country. He selected a large vine of what is called the Florida or bullet grape, that had enveloped a tall forest tree, which he carefully felled, so as not to injure the vine; trimming of the brushy part of the boughs, and leaving the more sturdy branches as props to the vine, which he pruned and cultivated about the roots—This vine the first year produced one barrel of excellent wine.

It is much to be lamented that we have not yet adopted some wholesome and innocent beverage as a substitute for ardent spirits, the bane of morals, health and happiness! Mankind has been accustomed to intoxicating drinks from the earliest ages of society—and we cannot expect that they will ever refrain from them—But that wine, if made in sufficient quantities, would in some measure supplant the use of distilled spirits, there is no doubt.—The obtaining of this desirable end too, would increase the independence of our own country, by adding to its already numerous productions; and become a successful defence against the attacks of foreigners, who make a merit of depreciating, what in truth they do not understand.

CHAP. XIV.

Statistical View.

This article ought to comprise a summary of all that relates to the present state of this territory. 184

To its physical Topography—2d. To its political Topography—And, under this head, Legislation, Laws, Judiciary and Judicial proceedings, political divisions, population, Religious societies, and Seminaries of learning. 3d. Geology—Including mines, minerals, and mineral productions—4th. Botany, (and as Doctor Drake would have it) Medical Topography—5th. An account of the Mountains, Lakes, Rivers, Creeks, rivulets, and natural springs. 6th. Commercial advantages, with notices of its navigable rivers, Canals, and roads for the transportation of produce and merchandise—7th. Manufactures, and manufacturing companies—with its produce for home, and foreign markets—8th. Wild and tame animals, including beasts, birds, & fishes, serpents, toads, and insects.

On the most important of these subjects I have concisely treated in the preceeding pages—For many of them, there was a deficiency of details; and on all, I wanted that information which the functionaries of the government have not furnished to the territory itself.

A notice of the memorials to Congress, may, very properly conclude this chapter; as they embrace subjects in which, not only the territory, but the United States, ought to feel a lively interest.

The first is, that of the French emigrants, praying a grant from Congress of choice lands on the Arkansas, on terms of deferred payment.

The second is, a memorial of a part of the citizens of the territory, praying admission into the Union as an independant state.

On the first of these memorials it may be asked:
 1st. How far is it the interest of the United States to increase her population, by encouraging large communities of foreigners to settle her vacant lands on terms more favourable than those granted by law to her own citizens. 2d. Is it just, or equitable to sell to strangers a large body of choice lands, the most advantageously situated of any in the territory, with twelve years to pay the purchase money, while native Americans, who have paid taxes, and fought the battles of their country, are left to pay the same price for the refuse of the lands, in one third of the time. 3d. what will be the effects of this policy, on morals, and the political institutions, yet to be formed in these new territories, when foreign principles, essentially different from our own, and supported by wealth, shall have their influence, in their establishment.

To these questions it may be truly and laconically answered— that there is neither interest to the public ; justice to the citizen, nor advantages in morals, or politics, likely to be derived from this stretch of national urbanity, in treating strangers better than our own citizens. If the government has any thing to spare, there are claims enough founded on *public services* (to use the language of the constitution) yet unprovided for.

On the subject of the memorial to become a state, it may be asked—

1st. That if the people, in the highest grade of a territorial government, with an independant Legislature of their own choice, are incapable of forming salutary municipal regulations, and of remedying

the evils of which they complain in their memorial, can they be supposed capable of forming the basis of a permanent state government which will not be fraught with similar or greater evils.

2d. Are not the limits asked for in the memorial too great for any one state— And will not such a division of the territory prove injurious to its northern and southern sections, which it will detach, and leave like disinherited children, to poverty and orphanage.

I have merely given these subjects, the Socratic negative ; it remains for Congress to decide on them for the good of the nation, and the equal rights of the citizens.

THE END!

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