

of the Carrying Place. That two such rivers should take their rise so near each other, and after running such different courses, empty themselves into the sea at a distance so amazing (for the former, having passed through several great lakes, and run upwards of two thousand miles, falls into the gulph of St. Lawrence, and the other, joining the Mississippi, and having run an equal number of miles, disembogues itself into the gulph of Mexico) is an instance scarcely to be met with in the extensive continent of North-America. I had an opportunity the year following of making the same observations on the affinity of various head branches of the waters of the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi to each other, and now bring them as a proof, that the opinion of those geographers who assert, that rivers taking their rise so near each other, must spring from the same source, is erroneous; for I perceived a visibly distinct separation in all of them, notwithstanding, in some places, they approached so near that I could have stepped from one to the other.

On the 8th of October we got our canoes into the Ouiskonin River, which at this place is more than an hundred yards wide; and the next day arrived at the Great Town of the Saukies. This is the largest and best built Indian town I ever saw; it contains about ninety houses, each large enough for several families. They are built of hewn plank neatly jointed, and covered with bark so compactly as to keep out the most penetrating rain. Before the doors are placed comfortable sheds, in which the inhabitants sit, when the weather will permit, and smoke their pipes. The streets are regular and spacious; so that it appears more like a civilized town than the abode of savages. The land near the town is very good—in their plantations, which lie adjacent to their houses, and which are neatly laid out, they raise great quantities of Indian corn, beans, melons, &c. so that this place is esteemed the best market for traders to furnish themselves with provisions, of any within eight hundred miles of it. The Saukies can raise about three hundred warriors, who are generally employed every summer in making incursions into the territories of the Illinois and Pawnee nations, from whence they return with a great number of slaves. But those people frequently retaliate, and, in their turn, destroy great numbers of the Saukies, which I judge to be the reason that they decrease no faster.

While I stayed here, I took a view of some mountains that lie about fifteen miles to the southward, and abound in lead ore. I ascended one of the highest

of these, and had an extensive view of the country. For many miles nothing was to be seen but lesser mountains, which appeared at a distance like haystacks, being free from trees. Only a few groves of hickory, and stunted oaks covered some of the vallies. So plentiful is lead here, that I saw large quantities lying about the streets in the town belonging to the Saukies, and it seems to be as the produce of other countries.

On the 10th of October we proceeded down the river, and the next day reached the first town of the Ojigawmies. This town contained about fifty houses, but we found most of them deserted, on account of an epidemical disorder that lately raged among them, and carried off more than one half of the inhabitants. The greater part of those who survived had retired into the woods to avoid the contagion.

On the 15th we entered that extensive river the Mississippi. The Ouiskonin, from the Carrying Place to the part where it falls into the Mississippi, flows with a smooth but strong current; the water of it is exceedingly clear, and through it you may perceive a fine and sandy bottom, tolerably free from rocks. In it are a few islands, the soil of which appeared to be good, though somewhat woody. The land near the river also seemed to be, in general excellent; but that at a distance is very full of mountains, where it is said there are many lead mines.

About five miles from the junction of the rivers, I observed the ruins of a large town in a very pleasing situation. On enquiring of the neighbouring Indians why it was thus deserted, I was informed, that about years ago the Great Spirit had appeared on the top of a pyramid of rocks, which lay at a little distance from it, and warned them to quit their habitations; for the land on which they had built belonged to him, and he had occasion for it. As a proof that he who gave them these orders was really the Great Spirit, he further told them, that the grass should immediately spring up on those very rocks from whence he now addressed them, which they knew to be bare and barren. The Indians obeyed, and soon after discovered that this miraculous alteration had taken place. They shewed me the spot, but the growth of the grass appeared no ways supernatural. I apprehended this to have been a stratagem of the French or Spaniards to answer some selfish view; but in what manner they effected their purposes I know not.

This people, soon after their removal, built a town on the bank of the Mississippi, near the mouth of the Ouiskonin,

at a place called by the French la Prairie les Chiens, which signifies the Dog Plains. It is a large town, and contains about three hundred families; the houses are well built after the Indian manner, and pleasantly situated on a very rich soil, from which they raise every necessity of life in great abundance. I saw here many horses of a good size and shape. This town is the great mart, where all the adjacent tribes, and even those who inhabit the most remote branches of the Mississippi, annually assemble about the latter end of May, bringing with them their furs to dispose of to the traders. But it is not always that they conclude their sales here: this is determined by a general council of the chiefs, who consult whether it would be more conducive to their interest to sell their goods at this place, or carry them on to Louisiana or Machillimackinac. According to the decision of this council they either proceed further, or return to their different homes.

The Mississippi, at the entrance of the Ouiskonin, near which stands a mountain of considerable height, is about half a mile over; but opposite to the last mentioned town it appears to be more than a mile wide, the soil of which is extremely rich and but thinly wooded.

A little farther to the west, on the contrary side, a small river falls into the Mississippi, which the French call le Jaune Riviere, or the Yellow river. Here the traders, who had accompanied me hitherto, took up their residence for the winter. I then bought a canoe, and, with two servants, one a French Canadian and the other a Mohawk of Canada, on the 19th proceeded up the Mississippi.

FOR THE GAZETTE.

THOUGHTS on the PRACTICE of AGRICULTURE: for the framers of North-Carolina.

THE whole practice of farming may be reduced to the following questions, which lead into each other:

Q. 1. What are the instruments with which the farmer should begin?

Q. 2. In what manner is the soil to be prepared and opened with these instruments?

Q. 3. What plants, trees, grain, grasses, &c. should be brought into the soil?

Q. 4. How should these be defended, cultivated, and prepared for use?

Q. 5. How should they be used or fed away when thus prepared?

Q. How shall the soil be preserved and fitted for a second, third, or fourth crop, and so on in succession forever.