

ern situation, I found nothing to obstruct my passage. On the 28th being advanced about forty miles, I arrived at a small branch that fell into it from the North, to which, as it had no name that I could distinguish it by, I gave my own, and the reader will find it in the plan of my travels denominated Carver's River. About forty miles higher up I came to the forks of Verd and Red Marble Rivers, which join at some little distance before they enter the St. Pierre.

The River St. Pierre, at its junction with the Mississippi, is about an hundred yards broad, and continues that breadth nearly all the way I sailed upon it. It has a great depth of water, and in some places runs very briskly. About fifty miles from its mouth are some rapids, and much higher up there are many others.

I proceeded up this river about two hundred miles to the country of the Naudowessies of the Plains, which lies a little above the forks formed by the Verd and Red Marble Rivers, just mentioned, where a branch from the South nearly joins the Messorie River. By the accounts I received from the Indians, I have reason to believe that the River St. Pierre and the Messorie, though they enter the Mississippi twelve hundred miles from each other, take their rise in the same neighbourhood, and this within the space of a mile. The River St. Pierre's northern branch rises from a number of lakes near the shining mountains; and it is from some of these, also, that a capital branch of the River Bourbon, which runs into Hudson's Bay, has its sources.

From the intelligence I gained from the Naudowessie Indians, among whom I arrived the 7th of December, and whose language I perfectly acquired during a residence of seven months; and also from the accounts I afterwards obtained from the Assinipoils, who speak the same tongue, being a revolted band of the Naudowessies, and from the Killikinoes, neighbours of the Assinipoils, who speak the Chipéway language, and inhabit the heads of the River Bourbon—I say, from these nations, together with my own observations, I have learned, that the four most capital rivers on the continent of North America, viz. St. Lawrence, the Mississippi, the River Bourbon, and the Oregon, or the River of the West, have their sources in the same neighbourhood. The waters of the three former are within thirty miles of each other; the latter, however, is rather farther west.

This shews that these parts are the highest lands in North-America; and it is an instance not to be paralleled on the other three quarters of the globe, that four rivers of such magnitude should take

their rise together, and each, after running separate courses, discharge their waters into different oceans, at the distance of two thousand miles from their sources. For in their passage from this spot to the bay of St. Lawrence, east—to the bay of Mexico, south—to Hudson's Bay, north—and to the bay at the straits of Annian, west, each of these traverse upwards of two thousand miles.

I shall here give my readers such reflections as occurred to me when I had received interesting information, and had, by numberless inquiries, ascertained the truth of it; that is, as far as it was possible to arrive at a certainty without a personal investigation.

It is well known that the colonies, particularly those of New-England and Canada, are greatly affected; about the time their winter sets in, by a north-west wind, which continues for several months, and renders the cold much more intense than it is in the interior parts of America.—This I can, from my own knowledge, assert, as I found the winter, that I passed to the westward of the Mississippi, far from severe, and the north-west wind blowing on those countries considerably more temperate than I have often experienced it to be nearer the coast. And that this did not arise from any uncertainty of the seasons, but was annually the case, I concluded, both from the small quantity of snow that then fell, and the total disuse of snow shoes by the Indians, without which none of the more eastern nations can possibly travel through the winter.

As naturalists observe, that air resembles water in many respects, particularly by often flowing in compact body; and that this is generally remarked to be with the current of large streams, and seldom across them, may not the winds that set violently into the Bay of Mexico about the latter end of the year, take their course over the continent in the same direction as the Mississippi does; till meeting with the north winds (that from a similar cause blow up the Bouryon from Hudson's Bay) they are forced across the great lakes, down the current of the waters of the St. Lawrence, and united, commit those ravages, and occasion those severe winters experienced in the before-mentioned countries? During their progress over the lakes they become expanded, and consequently affect a greater tract of land than they otherwise would do.

According to my scanty knowledge of natural philosophy, this does not appear improbable. Whether it is agreeable to the laws established by naturalists to account for the operations of that element, I know not. However, the description here given of the situation of these vast bodies of water, and their near approach

to each other, with my own undigested suppositions of their effect on the winds, may prove perhaps, in abler hands, the means of leading to many useful discoveries.

MISCELLANY.

FOR THE GAZETTE.

*Of the first peopling of America.*

NUMBER II.

WE will now proceed to make some observations on what has been adduced in aid of the northern pretensions. Upon considering the whole of what has been said, with the probable circumstances and situations of several discoverers, with that degree of minuteness and candour necessary on such subjects, we cannot be charged with any degree of rashness in pronouncing the several proofs to amount no higher than naked conjecture; for this continent they themselves only supposed to be part of America.—With respect to the similarity of the islanders before spoken of, it operates in neither direction; for a parallel or similar situation will invariably produce a resemblance in manners and customs. This is a position so obvious, as every where to meet the observation of the attentive, and is altogether consonant to that economy which takes place both in men and things. The latter voyage will also weaken the information produced by the first; for by returning considerably to the north, the tract supposed by the first discoverers to be land, turned out an entire sea.—This begets a formidable presumption against the existence of the supposed part of the American continent, which may reduce it to an island, or at farthest leave it suspended upon mere independent conjecture: so that at all events it is barely possible that such a communication may have existed: this then, is a miserable and forlorn foundation from whence to draw conclusions equally curious and important. With respect to the information of the north-eastern barbarians not understanding the language of the supposed Americans, with whom they traded, and for articles they never saw in their own country. These circumstances may be found to exist almost in every direction, if common observation is but pushed a few hundred miles from home. Is there any one amongst us who can speak the Cherokee language until intercourse and connection has taught him? This argument is so extremely loose and remote, as renders it entirely unworthy of notice.

The evidence in proof of the north-