



AND

North-Carolina State Gazette.

"Ours are the Plans of fair delightful Peace,
"Unwarp'd by Party Rage, to live like Brothers."

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AN ACCOUNT OF LOUISIANA;

Being

An Abstract of Documents

In the Offices of the Departments of State and Treasury of the United States.

The object of the following is to consolidate the information respecting the present State of Louisiana, furnished to the Executive by several individuals among the best informed on that subject.

OF the Province of Louisiana, no general Map, sufficiently correct to be depended upon, has been published, nor has any yet been procured from a private source. It is indeed probable, that surveys have never been made upon so extensive a scale as to afford the means of laying down the various regions of a country which, in some of its parts, appears to have been but imperfectly explored.

Boundaries.

The precise boundaries of Louisiana, westward of the Mississippi, though very extensive, are at present involved in some obscurity. Data are equally wanting to assign with precision its northern extent. From the source of the Mississippi, it is bounded eastward by the middle of the channel of that river, to the 31st degree of latitude: Thence, it is asserted upon very strong grounds, that, according to its limits when formerly possessed by France, it stretches to the east, as far, at least, as the river Perdido, which runs into the bay of Mexico, eastward of the river Mobile.

It may be consistent with the view of these notes to remark, that Louisiana, including the Mobile settlements, was discovered and peopled by the French, whose monarchs made several grants of its trade, in particular to Mr. Crozat in 1712, and some years afterwards, with his acquiescence. The well known company projected by Mr. Law. This company was relinquished in 1731. By a secret convention on the 3d November, 1762, the French government ceded so much of the province as lies beyond the Mississippi, as well as the island of New-Orleans, to Spain, and by the treaty of peace which followed in 1763, the whole territory of France and Spain, eastward of the middle of the Mississippi to the Iberville, thence through the middle of that river, and the lakes Maurepas and Ponchartrain, to the sea was ceded to Great-Britain. Spain having conquered the Floridas from Great Britain during our revolutionary war, they were confirmed to her by the treaty of peace of 1783. By the treaty of St. Ildelonso, of the 18th October, 1800, his Catholic Majesty promises and engages on his part to cede back to the French Republic, six months after the full and entire execution of the conditions and stipulations therein contained, relative to the Dept. of Parma, "the colony, or province of Louisiana, with the same extent that it actually has in the hands of Spain, that which Spain France possessed it, and such as it ought to be after the treaties subsequently entered into between Spain and other States." This treaty was confirmed and enforced by that of Madrid, of the 21st March, 1801. From France it passed to us by the treaty of April last, with a reference to the above clause as descriptive of the limits ceded.

Divisions of the Province.

This province, as held by Spain, including a part of West-Florida, is laid off into the following principal divisions: Mobile, from Balise to the city, New-Orleans and the country on both sides of Lake Ponchartrain, first and second German coasts, Catahanese, Fouché, Venezuela, Iberville, Galvez-Town, Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, Atacapas, Opelousas, Ouachita, Avoyelles, Rapide, Natchitoches, Arkansas and the Illinois.

In the Illinois there are commandants, at New Madrid, St. Genevieve, New Bourbon, St. Charles and St. Andrew's, all subordinate to the commandant general.

Baton Rouge having been made a government, subsequently to the treaty of limits, &c. with Spain, the posts of Manchac and Thomson's Creek, or Feliciana, were added to it.

Chapinouis has sometimes been regarded as a separate command, but is now included within the jurisdiction of the city. The lower part of the river has likewise had occasionally a separate commandant.

Many of the present establishments are separated from each other by immense and trackless deserts, having no communication with each other by land, except now and then a solitary instance of its being attempted by hunters who have to swim rivers, expose themselves to the inclemency of the weather, and carry their provisions on their backs, for a time proportioned to the length of their journey. This is particularly the case on the west of the Mississippi, where the communication is kept up only by water, between the capital and the distant settlements; three months being required to convey intelligence from the one to the other by the Mississippi. The usual distance accomplished by a boat in ascending, is five leagues per day; the rapidity of the current in the spring season especially when the waters of all the rivers are high, facilitates the descent, so that the same voyage by water, which requires three or four months to perform from the capital, may be made to it in from twelve to sixteen days. The principal settlements in Louisiana are on the Mississippi, which begin to be cultivated about twenty leagues from the sea, where the plantations are yet thin, and owned by the poorest people. Ascending, you see them improve on each side, till you reach the city, which is situated on the east bank, on a bend of that river, 35 leagues from the sea.

Chapinouis, First and Second German Coasts--Catahanese--Fouché and Iberville.

The best and most improved are above the city, and comprehend what is there known by the Paroisse de Chapinouis, Premier and second Côte des Allemands, and extend 16 leagues.

Above this begins the parish of Catahanese, or first Acadian settlement extending eight leagues on the river. Adjoining to it and still ascending, is the second Acadian settlement, or parish of the Fouché, which extends about six leagues. The parish of Iberville then commences, and is bounded on the east side by the river of the same name, which, though dry a great part of the year, yet, when the Mississippi is raised, it communicates with the lakes Maurepas and Ponchartrain, and through them with the sea, and thus forms what is called the island of New-Orleans. Except on the point just below the Iberville, the country from New-Orleans is settled the whole way along the river, and presents a scene of uninterrupted plantations in sight of each other, whose fronts to the Mississippi are all cleared, and occupy on that river from 5 to 25 acres with a depth of 40; so that a plantation of 5 acres in front contains 200. A few sugar plantations are formed in the parish of Catahanese, but the remainder is devoted to cotton and provisions, and the whole is an excellent soil incapable of being exhausted. The plantations are but one deep on the island of New-Orleans, and on the opposite side of the river as far as the mouth of the Iberville, when is 35 leagues above New-Orleans.

Bayou de la Fourche--Atacapas, and Opelousas.

About twenty-five leagues from the last-mentioned place on the west side of the Mississippi, the creek or Bayou of the Fourche, called in old Maps, La Riviere des Chitamaches, flows from the Mississippi, and communicates with the sea to the west of the Balise. The entrance of the Mississippi is navigable only at high water, but will then admit of draft of from 60 to 70 tons burthen. On both banks of this creek are settlements, one plantation deep, for near 15 leagues, and they are divided into two parishes. The settlers are numerous, though poor, and the culture is universally cotton. On all creeks making from the Mississippi, the soil is the same as on the bank of the river, and the border is the highest part of it, from whence it descends gradually to the swamp. In no place on the low lands is there depth more than six feet for one plantation, before you come to the low grounds incapable of cultivation. This creek affords one of the communications to the two populous and rich settlements of Atacapas and Opelousas, formed on and near the small rivers Tache and Vermillon, which flow into the Bay of Mexico. But the principal and swiftest communication, is by the Bayou or creek of Paqueminnes, whose entrance into the Mississippi is seven leagues higher up on the same side, and 32 above New-Orleans. These settlements abound in cattle and horses; have a large quantity of good land in their vicinity, and may be made of great importance. A part of their produce is sent by sea to New-Orleans, but the greater part is carried in batteaux by the creeks above mentioned.

Baton Rouge, and its dependencies.

Immediately above the Iberville, and on both sides of the Mississippi lies the parish of Manchac, which extends four leagues on the river, and is well cultivated. Above it commences the settlement of Baton Rouge, extending about 9 leagues. It is remarkable as being the first place where the high land is contiguous to the river, and here it forms a bluff from 30 to 40 feet above the greatest rise of the river. Here the settlements extend a considerable way back on the east side, and this parish has that of Thompson's creek and Bayou Sara subordinate to it. The mouth of the first of these creeks is about 49 leagues from New-Orleans, and that of the latter 2 or 3 leagues higher up. They run from north-east to south-west, and their head waters are north of the 31st degree of latitude. Their banks have the best soil, and the greatest number of good cotton plantations of any part of Louisiana, and are allowed to be the garden of it.

Point Coupee and Fausse Riviere.

Above Baton Rouge, at the distance of 50 leagues from New-Orleans, and on the west side of the Mississippi is Point Coupee, a populous and rich settlement, extending 8 leagues along the river. Its produce is cotton. Behind it, on an old bed of the river, now a lake whose outlets are closed up, is the settlement of Fausse Riviere, which is well cultivated.

In the space now described, from the sea as high as, and including the last mentioned settlement, is contained three-fourths of the population, and seven-eighths of the riches of Louisiana. From the settlement of Point Coupee on the Mississippi, to Cape Girardeau above the mouth of the Ohio, there is no land on the west side that is not overflowed in the spring, to the distance of 8 or 10 leagues from the river, with from 2 to 12 feet of water, except a small spot near New-Madrid; so that in the whole extent there is no possibility of forming a considerable settlement contiguous to the river on that side. The eastern bank has, in this respect, a decided advantage over the western, as there are on it many situations which effectually command the river.

Red River, and its settlements.

On the west side of the Mississippi, 70 leagues from New-Orleans, is the mouth of the Red River, on whose banks and vicinity are the settlements of Rapide, Avoyelles and Natchitoches, all of them thriving and populous. The latter is 75 leagues up the Red River. On the north side of the Red river, a few leagues from its junction with the Mississippi, is the Black river, on one of whose branches, a considerable way up, is the infant settlement of Ouachita, which from the richness of the soil, may be made a place of importance. Cotton is the chief produce of these settlements, but they have likewise a considerable Indian trade. The River Rouge, or Red River, is used to communicate with the frontiers of New-Mexico.

Concord--Arkansas--St. Charles--St. Andrew, &c.

There is no other settlement on the Mississippi except the small one called Concord, opposite to the Natchez, till you come to the Arkansas river, whose mouth is 250 leagues above New-Orleans. Here there are but a few families, who are more attached to the Indian trade (by which chiefly they live) than to cultivation. There is no settlement from this place to New-Madrid, which is itself inconsiderable.

Ascending the river, you come to Cape Girardeau; St. Genevieve and St. Lewis, where, though the inhabitants are numerous, they raise little for exportation, and content themselves with trading with the Indians, and working a few lead mines. This country is very fertile, especially on the banks of the Missouri, where there have been formed two settlements, called St. Charles and St. Andrew, mostly by emigrants from Kentucky. The peltry procured in the Illinois, is the best sent to the Atlantic market, and the quantity is very considerable. Lead is to be had with ease, and in such quantities as to supply all Europe, if the population were sufficient to work the numerous mines to be found within two or three feet from the surface in various parts of the country. The settlements about the Illinois were first made by the Canadians, and their inhabitants still resemble them in their aversion to labour, and love of a wandering life. They contain but few negroes, compared to the number of the whites; and it may be taken for a general rule, that in proportion to the distance from the capital, the number of blacks diminishes below that of the whites; the former abounding most on the rich plantations in its vicinity.

General Description of Upper Louisiana.

When compared with the Indiana Territory, the face of the country in Upper Louisiana is rather more broken, though the soil is equally fertile. It is a fact not to be contested, that the west side of the river possesses some advantages, not generally incident to those regions. It is elevated and healthy, and well watered with a variety of large rapid streams, calculated for mills and other water works. From Cape Girardeau, above the mouth of the Ohio, to the Missouri, the land on the east side of the Mississippi is low and flat, and occasionally exposed to inundations; that on the Louisiana side, contiguous to the river, is generally much higher, and in many places very rocky on the shore. Some of the heights exhibit a scene truly picturesque. They rise to a height of at least 300 feet, faced with perpendicular lime and free-stone, carved into various shapes and figures by the hand of nature, and afford the appearance of a multitude of antique towers. From the tops of these elevations, the land gradually slopes back from the river without gravel or rock, and is covered with valuable timber. It may be laid with truth, that for fertility of soil, no part of the world exceeds the borders of the Mississippi; the land yields an abundance of all

Continued in the last page.

TAVERN In Fayetteville.

THE Subscriber begs Leave to inform his Friends and the Public, that he has removed from Pittsburgh, Chatham County, to this Place, where he has opened a Tavern and Boarding House in the Premises lately occupied by Mr. Lewis Barge, in Bow-Street. Those who may chuse to favour him with their Customs, may be assured he will use every Effort to render their Accommodations agreeable. He has laid in a Stock of the choicest Spirits, Wine and Porter. The Stables are good, well furnished with Forage, Corn and Oats, and careful Hands to attend them. JAMES BAKER.

ATTENTUS

I Will sell one of the pleasantest and healthiest situations in this County, my own Camp scarcely excepted, from whence it is distant about 50 Yards. There is a good framed House, containing three Rooms, with an Apartment Up-stairs; a Doctor's Shop and Kitchen, uniformly first, and a Smoke-house in the rear, with a Garden full of Weeds. About twenty Acres round the House is planted with Peach, Apple and Cherry Trees, which are generally Proof against the Frost. My old Bath Ground, containing 1000 Acres (more or less) having lately shown a Disposition to be as prolific as the far-famed 13 States (which ought at the Peace to have been put in the neuter Gender) I shall hire or other Brats adjoining the above, make 50 together 500 Acres. Such useless members of a commonwealth should be lopt off to give the state more health. Any Person desiring to purchase, may see the Premises and know the Terms, by applying to me, and should no private contract be made (of which notice will be given) it will be exposed to public sale on the 15th of December, and Possession given the Purchaser the 1st of January, 1804. J. LENOX.

NEGRO MEN TAKEN UP.

THERE is now confined in Hillsborough Goal, Courts of Orange, two Negro Men, one of whom says he belongs to John M'Daniel, Elbert County, Georgia; said on his Examination, that he has been absent from his Master nearly two years. He is a small black Negro, with his Teeth out before, and calls himself BILL. The other says he belongs to Blake Baker Wiggins, and got lost from a Cart on his Way with others, going to Perdue. He calls his Name WILL, and is of middle Stature. The Owners may have them on proper application. S. TURKENTINE, Sheriff. Nov 23, 1803.

FOR SALE.

MY Lot, containing half an Acre, with a well finished Dwelling House, Store-house, Lumber, Kitchen and Shoak House, in Hillsborough, Chatham County, or any Part thereof, as shall be most convenient to the Purchaser. Terms may be known on Application. H. LICH FOOT.

Scheme of a Lottery.

Authorized by act of the General Assembly, to raise a Sum of Money to complete the building of the LUMBERMEN'S ACADEMY, in Robeson County, North-Carolina.

Table with 3 columns: Prize amount, Number of prizes, Total value. Includes prizes of 500, 100, 50, 25, 10, 5 dollars and 500 tickets.

584 Prizes, 1168 Blacks. 1752 Tickets, at 30s. or 3 dolls. each. The Prizes will be paid by the Treasurer of the Trustees of the Academy, at any time after the Drawing, with Exactness, subject to a Deduction of fifteen percent for the Benefit of the Academy. The fortunate Numbers will be published for the Information of Ticket-holders. The Drawing of the Lottery will begin on the fourth of January next.

JOSEPH WOOD, JOSEPH BELTON, WM. NORMANT, THO. BARNES, ROBERT HALLS. Managers.

ENTERTAINMENT.

THE Subscriber being warmly solicited by a Number of respectable Characters and her Friends in particular, to inform the Public, that she has opened a House of Entertainment for Gentlemen and Lady Travellers, in the Town of Lumberton, Robeson County. She flatters herself that her exertions to give general Satisfaction, will not fail to merit her the patronage of the Public in general. She avails herself of this Opportunity, to return her most sincere Thanks to those who have already honoured her with their Customs, and desires them that the Continuance of their Favours will always be to her as a Stimulus to her future Exertions. The Tables from some of the most respectable Cities in the Union will be republished. Good Stables, Corn, Oats, and Fodder, with a steady Ofler, may always be relied on, and the best of Theatres and Provisions that the Country affords. DIANA NILES.