

reign be happy and glorious, and his lifelong and prosperous,) wishing him long possession of the seat of his blessed throne, and long life and health, amen; hoping that your health is in a good state, I inform you mine is excellent thanks to the Supreme Being, (constantly addressing my prayers to the Almighty for your felicity, &c.

MISSOURI TERRITORY.

A bird's-eye view of the Missouri Territory,

IN A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE PORTICO.

St. Louis, M. T.

DEAR —

It is now incumbent on me to redeem the pledge which I some time since gave you, and present you with a bird's eye view of this most interesting portion of the union.

The boundaries of the Missouri Territory appear to have been defined by most geographers, who have treated of the subject, in a very vague and unsatisfactory manner.

From the best information I can obtain, it is bounded on the south by an east and west line, drawn on the latitude of 33 deg. north, separating it from the state of Louisiana: on the east by the Mississippi river: on the north by the British possessions, or according to some by the 45 deg. of north latitude: and on the west by uncultivated regions, extending to the shores of the Pacific ocean.

Within this immense range it is to be presumed, great varieties of climate and soil will present themselves. The climate is, I think, more pleasant than that of similar latitudes in the Atlantic states. It is to be observed however, that in consequence of the very open and level character of the country, or from some other cause, the variations of temperature are extremely sudden. From this fact, it would naturally be concluded, that pulmonary consumption would be a common disease; but, in reality, it is extremely rare with the native inhabitants; nor is it as common among the emigrants as I have observed it to be in other parts of the United States. The general character of the climate is healthy in the extreme. During the autumnal months, those who reside on the water courses, or who are engaged in navigating boats, are liable to be attacked by bilious and intermitting fevers; but the seasons of winter, spring and summer, are rarely marked by the occurrence of any disease of a serious character.

The large bodies of open, or prairie land, (on the borders of which the farmer generally settles, and encloses his fields) cut off one fruitful source of disease in all new countries.

For here, he is not, as in a thickly timbered country, surrounded for the first two or three years with an atmosphere heavily charged with vegetable putrefaction; but is, as it were, in the situation of a person settling on an improved estate.

To the mind of a superficial observer, the prospect of the im-

mense prairies, destitute of timber, and loaded with the most luxuriant crop of grass, presents the idea that this description of land can never be peopled; but as those immense meadows were, in the first instance, formed by the action of fire, so daily experience proves, that nothing is requisite to their being speedily covered with heavy timber again, but that this fire should be kept off.

The upland of the territory has generally its base on a stratum of lime stone, and is exceedingly fertile; the bottoms of the rivers, which are commonly very extensive and well timbered, are composed of the richest loam.

Springs of fine water are abundant in most parts of the country, and it is generally strongly impregnated with what is called lime stone.

The mineral riches of this country are highly deserving of notice; and although we have ceased to follow the "ignis fatuus," which first led the Spanish and French to explore this region—still we have not been disappointed in finding that which is, no doubt, of much greater importance than silver or gold, viz. inexhaustible beds of lead and iron ore and innumerable sources of the strongest salt water. The numerous caves which exist in all lime stone countries, present us also with immense quantities of salt petre; and thus nature seems to have rendered this country independent of the world, both in a state of peace and war.

But although thus formed by nature to live in a Chinese seclusion from the rest of the world, perhaps no inland portion of the globe enjoys greater commercial advantages.

Bounded, as we are, on the east by the Mississippi river, a constant and uninterrupted outlet for surplus produce is always offered. This enables the farmer here to be in market at Orleans long before those of the states bordering on the river Ohio, can leave home. On the other hand, the Illinois and Osage rivers, which empty into the Mississippi above this, afford at many seasons of the year, a direct communication with the northern lakes.

The Mississippi and its waters thus afford a northern and southern outlet; the territory is also pierced by a number of the finest navigable rivers.

To commence at the southern extremity of the territory, we first meet with the Arkansas, a large, deep and gentle stream, which affords a navigation of 4 or 500 hundred miles, and washes an extensive and fertile country, and abounding in salt and other minerals, so much so, that the river, though a large one, is, at a point some hundreds of miles above its mouth, very strongly impregnated with saline and metallic substances.

The general course of the Arkansas is nearly east.

The next stream of importance we meet with is White river. This is a fine large water course, affording a navigation of some hundred miles, and, after watering a most valuable and fertile district of

country, runs a south course, and enters the Mississippi near the mouth of the Arkansas, and is, in fact, connected with that river by a bayou, a short distance from their entry into the Mississippi.

We next come to the river St. Francis. This, although not near so large a stream as either of the first mentioned, affords a very considerable navigation. We meet with no other stream of consequence after this for nearly two hundred miles.

The Merrimac then presents itself.

This is a beautiful river, about 200 yards wide, and affords a good navigation for large boats for some hundred miles.

The Merrimac and its waters run through an extremely rich mineral country. The finest banks of iron ore are to be seen on it, and in one of its branches the lead mines in the county of Washington (now in operation) are situated.

The Merrimac empties into the Mississippi about 15 miles below St. Louis.

We now approach a river, as well on account of its length, depth, and the rapidity of its current, as of the fertile tract of country which it waters, is without a parallel, I believe, in the world. The Missouri, to which I allude, empties into the Mississippi about thirty miles above the Merrimac. Its breadth at the mouth, and for many hundred miles above, is between three fourths and half a mile. Its waters are well known to be of a singular, muddy nature, and it is this stream which impresses on the Mississippi its characteristic, turbid and turbulent features; for previous to the junction of that river with the Missouri, it is a very remarkably clear and gentle, though deep stream; resembling very much the river Ohio.

The Missouri, taking its rise in the rocky mountains, and running nearly an east course, is joined in its progress, by an immense number of fine navigable streams; but as the settlements have not yet proceeded higher up than Grand River, it will be sufficient to mention that river and the Osage and Gasconade.

They are all three large navigable streams, the first coming in from the north, and the two last from the south.

Between the Osage and Grand Rivers is probably the finest body of land in the known world. It is now populating rapidly.

This district of country is commonly known under the vulgar appellation of *Boon's Lick*. It abounds in almost every part with strong salt water, and considerable manufactories of salt are now in operation there. The salt made at them is the finest I have ever seen manufactured in the United States.

To return to the Mississippi, which has now assumed a mild and pleasing aspect; we proceed nearly sixty miles without coming to any stream of importance, emptying in from the western shore. We then meet with Salt River, a small stream, but affording good navigation during some part of the year, for some distance.

This river, however, is remarkable for having near it the finest body of land and the greatest abundance of salt water.

Numerous other navigable streams empty into the Mississippi above this, and on its banks probably the richest lead mines in the world; but as these are in the Indian country, I shall not mention them over. I have thus, my friend, given you a hasty sketch of this rising territory. Should you remain in this country, I probably try to amuse you by giving a description of the primitive state of manners which once existed, and still is observable here.

Extract of a Letter dated Natchez June 4. 1817.

I some time since communicated to you the rumors which were floating in the region of our political atmosphere, respecting a war made by the celebrated Caddo chief to our neighbors, the De la St. Antoni de Bexar. The lectures which I stated to be incident to that visit, are fully verified. The Caddo chief is here, and has exhibited, in a recent interview (or talk) with an Indian agent, a commission issued by Arrendondo, general commander in chief of the Province of Texas de Bexar. It was extorted from him by the urgent repeated demands of the agent and apparently with much reluctance. It is written in Spanish. I have not read it, but am informed that it appointed him to the command of all the Indian tribes west of the Arago Honda. The instructions which are attached to this impertinent instrument, are of the most bloody and atrocious kind.—He is directed to seize persons and property of every description, of whatever description, which he may find beyond the Arago Honda and between that and the Antoni de Bexar, and forthwith to transport them bag and baggage to St. Antoni; and if he should find any one should have the sufferable audacity to resist the holy mandate of his most Catholic Majesty, to treat him as an enemy—to put him to death—and promised, by way of incentive to the faithful execution of his commission, a reward proportioned to the quantity of property of the character or standing of the person he shall bring in.

Louisiana Rambler

AN INDIAN TREATY.

FROM THE KNOXVILLE GAZETTE OF JULY 17.

We are enabled to state, on authority entitled to the fullest credit, that on the 8th inst. Governor McMinn and Generals Jackson and Meriwether, commissioners on the part of the United States, effected a treaty with the Cherokee Indians, (by way of exchange) for a small tract of country on the north side of Tennessee river, within the limits of this state, including little more than Sequatchee Valley; and all the land south of Chatahoochee river, in the state of Georgia. It is expressly stipulated in this treaty, that the census of the whole nation be taken in the month of June next, with a view to ascertain the growth