

seven to twelve Batteaus, go from New Orleans twice a year, viz. in the spring and autumn.

In the spring the Mississippi is very high ; and tho' the current is so strong that nothing can make head against it in the middle of the river, they have an advantage by an eddy or counter-current, which runs in the bends, and close to the banks of the river, and greatly facilitates their voyage. The current, at this season, runs at the rate of six or seven miles an hour : in autumn, when the waters are low, it in general does not run above two miles an hour, except in some parts of the river, above the Arkansas, where there are a great many islands, shoals, and sand-banks of some miles circumference, which make the voyage more dangerous, longer, and less expeditious, than in the spring ; and this makes it further necessary, that boats should go in convoys, that they may assist each other in case of meeting with any of the accidents they are so evidently exposed to. Great pieces of coal are constantly found on the sand-banks, from whence it may be concluded, that there are coal-mines on the upper parts of the Mississippi.