

beasts of prey, does not kill the animal he has seized upon before he eats it; but, regardless of its struggles, cries and lamentations, fastens upon, and, if the expression is allowable, devours it alive. The hunters count much on their profits from the oil drawn from the bear's fat, which, at New Orleans, is always of ready sale, and much esteemed for its wholesomeness in cooking, being preferred to butter or hog's lard. It is found to keep longer than any other animal oil, without becoming rancid; and boiling it from time to time, upon sweet bay leaves, restores its sweetness, or facilitates its conservation.

In the afternoon of the 17th they passed some sand beaches, and over a few rapids. They had cane brakes on both sides of the river; the canes were small, but demonstrate that the water does not surmount the bank more than a few feet. The river begins to widen as they advance; the banks of the river show the high land soil, with a stratum of three or four feet of alluvian deposited by the river upon it. This superstratum is grayish, and very sandy, with a small admixture of loam, indicative of the poverty of the mountains and uplands where the river rises. Near this they passed through a new and very narrow channel, in which all the water of the river passes, except in the time of freshets, when the interval forms an island. A little above this pass is a small clearing, called "Cache la Turlipe," (Turlip's hiding place;) this is the name of a French hunter who here concealed his property. It continues the practice of both the white and red hunters to leave their skins, &c., often suspended to poles, or laid over a pole placed upon two forked posts, in sight of the river, until their return from hunting. These deposits are considered as sacred, and few examples exist of their being plundered. After passing the entrance of a bay, which within must form a great lake during inundation, great numbers of the long-leaf pine were observed; and the increased size of the cane along the river's bank denoted a better and more elevated soil; on the left was a high hill (three hundred feet) covered with lofty pine trees.

The banks of the river present more the appearance of upland soil, the under stratum being a pale yellowish clay, and the alluvial soil of a dirty white, surmounted by a thin covering of a brown vegetable earth. The trees improve in appearance, growing to a considerable size and height, though yet inferior to those on the alluvial banks of the Mississippi. After passing the "Bayou de Hachis" on the left, points of high land not subject to be overflowed frequently touch the river, and the valley is said to be more than a league in breadth on both sides. On the left are pine hills, called "Code de Champignole." The river is not more than fifty or sixty yards wide. On the morning of the 20th they passed a number of sand beaches and some rapids, but found good depth of water between them. A creek called "Chemin Couvert," which forms a deep ravine in the highlands, here enters the river; almost immediately above this is a rapid where the water of the river is confined to a channel of about forty yards in width; above it they had to quit the main channel, on account of the shallowness and rapidity of the water, and pass along a narrow chan-

nel of
the
N
tude
of th
inter
map
been
also
is fri
speci
On
cular
from
presc
the r
here
indic
The
On
of th
little
hund
Petit
to be
base,
these
ascen
any i
are in
with
quant
of tw
and c
with
As
elevat
surm
obstru
found
high
this u
both l
At
nated
with
yards
contra
and r