

shops. It is the staple of all kinds of merchandize necessary for the southern colonies. Almost all the proprietors of this little state, being emigrants from the southern provinces, have brought with them the political principles there professed. They are Federalists, consequently not favourers of the present president. Natchez is cultivated in an extent of fifty miles in length, and twenty in breadth. The air is healthy, the climate agreeable, and it may be presumed, that it will shortly be one of the most powerful and populous provinces of the United States.

The last post of the United States on the Mississippi, is Roche à Davion, where the Americans have built a fort, called by the name of one of their generals, Wilkinson. Here the head-quarters of their small army are established. There are also some armed vessels for the defence of the place. All the vessels that descend this river are obliged to stop here, and declare to what nation they belong, and the nature of their cargoes. Those that ascend pay here the duties on their merchandize, if destined for the American part. Some miles below Roche à Davion, are the limits marked out by Spain and the United States, in 1798. It is a road thirty feet wide, and its direction exactly from east to west: it crosses the lands belonging to the Chicasaws, and divides the two Floridas from the States of Georgia and South Carolina.

At a little distance from the limits, on the opposite bank, is the Red River, so called from the colour of the earth suspended in it. After ascending about five miles, the mouth of the Washita is seen, which, in a course of at least five hundred miles, waters a country, rich, elevated, healthy, and abundant in minerals. The navigation is difficult, on account of the falls, which, in dry weather, almost entirely obstruct its course. Rapides, five miles from its mouth, is a small place, which has received its name from its situation on a part of the river, where enormous rocks accelerate the current. The settlement of Washita is one hundred miles farther, and is one of the finest places in Lower Louisiana. Capable of producing all the plants that are cultivated in the southern parts, sugar excepted, it possesses the inappreciable advantage of salubrity over all the others bordering the Mississippi. The cold, although very supportable, is sufficiently sharp to destroy insects, and purify the air; while the great heats of summer soon ripen the cotton, indigo, tobacco, and rice. Wheat, and all other grain, grows very fine. Spain keeps there a garrison of about thirty men, commanded by a captain. I cannot here forbear mentioning a species of tyranny exercised over the people, by men in the employ of the Spanish government. One can hardly believe that officers