

*Lou'fat*, or *Black Water*, because the lakes are covered with leaves which give the water that colour. Between these and the *Avoyels*, a small nation inhabiting the banks of the red river, which is very rapid, we find the country quite deserted. These people are used to supply the *French*, settled at *Louisiana*, with horses, cows and calves, at a very moderate price. At present they have them in vast plenty, without any purchase.

Fifty leagues up the red river, near a *French* settlement, is the nation of *Natchez*, consisting of about 200 huts, they have no love for the *Spaniards*, but are well attached to the *French*, who have a settlement very near them. There are some scattered branches of this nation, but none of them numerous.

About a hundred leagues from the place where this river falls into the *Mississippi*, are the habitations of a vast nation called *Cadodaguinox*, which extends in different tribes a vast way. They as well as the people beforementioned, have a language peculiar to themselves; but that of *Clickastaw* is understood among them all, like *lingua franca* in the *Levant*; they call it the vulgar tongue.

The *Onacitas* are intermixed among them, having abandoned the black river, to which they gave name, to avoid the rage of the *Clickastaw*, who dare not follow them; for the same reason the *Tuensas*, who formerly inhabited this coast, near a river to which they lent their denomination, withdrew to the neighbourhood of the *Mobilians*, where we before took notice of them. These martial gentry also made war upon the *Arkansas*, a nation of good warriors, and able huntsmen, but met a reception so very warm, that they were glad to desist, more especially as they found them joined by the *Kapras*, *Michigankias* and a party of *Illinois*. There are no other people on the banks of this river, though the contrary has been advanced by former travellers.

The *Missouris* are a numerous people, on the banks of the famous river so called. The *French* had here a settlement, the garrison of which was surprised and cut off by the natives. There are many other small nations about the *Missouri*, the re-capitulating which would be tedious; and north of them all, a branch of the *Sieux* was thought formerly to have resided. Our author is inclined to believe, that they formerly were to be found on both sides of the great river; and he justly observes that we must be content to wait some centuries before we can arrive at any certain knowledge of the vast tract of land running *North of Louisiana*.

The first *French* settlement made in this province, was upon the *Mobile*, where the commander in chief resided; but since the foundation of *New Orleans* on the banks of the great river, which is now the capital, it has been in a good measure deserted. Here is however a garrisoned fort, with four strong bastions, that secure the furr trade on this side, awes the neighbouring nations, and cuts off the *Chataques* from corresponding with the *English*, who are also curtailed in their views on the *Clickastaw* side, by fort *Tombec*, built in 1736.

Not far from the *Mobile* is a settlement of some *Canadians*, who contented with little, prefer the small advantages of rural labour to all the profits of tillage; and who only visit *New Orleans* when they want necessities.

Among the different nations into which *Louisiana* is divided, *Du Pratz* informs us that of the *Natchez* is the most remarkable; being not only very numerous, but better polished than the rest, their way of thinking more consistent with humanity; their sentiments more refined; and their customs more reconcilable to reason: therefore in describing the customs and manners of the people of this country in general, he draws his information principally from the *Natchez*.

The natives of *Louisiana*, and almost all the *Americans*, are strong, nervous, and well made; with black eyes and hair, regular features, and none less than five feet and a half high; the women are rather lower than the men; but giants, dwarfs, and deformed men are unknown among them. They are white when born, at which time care is taken to wash them in cold water: by degrees they become brown, and to this, the rubbing them with oil and bears fat, contributes not a little: besides which, it renders their limbs more flexible, and saves them from the stinging of the muskitoes. As they grow up they are furnished with bows and arrows proportioned to their strength, and by way of exercise and diversion, try their skill at a mark. He that excels is sure of great prize, and filled the great warrior, a title of which they are not a little proud: they also delight in running races.

As they live to a very great age, the oldest of a family is the most respected, and his will obeyed with as much caution as if he was a sovereign prince. Great care is taken to prevent among them quarrels and disputes; they rarely happen. All are

Ogwi Lou'fat.

Avoyels Nation.

Natchez.

Cadodaguinox.

Onacitas.

Arkansas, Michigankias, and a party of Illinois.

Missouris.

Fort Tombec.

A rural settlement of Canadians.

Natchez, a polished nation.

Complexion and stature of the natives.