

## MESSAGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT, TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN pursuance of a measure proposed to Congress by a message of January 18th, one thousand eight hundred and three, and sanctioned by their approbation for carrying it into execution, Captain Meriwether Lewis, of the 1st regiment of infantry, was appointed with a party of men to explore the river Missouri, from its mouth to its source, and, crossing the highlands by the shortest portage, to seek the best water communication thence to the Pacific ocean; and Lieutenant Clarke was appointed second in command. They were to enter into conference with the Indian nations on their route, with a view to the establishment of commerce with them. They entered the Missouri May fourteenth, one thousand eight hundred and four, and on the first of November took up their winter quarters near the Mandan towns, 1,609 miles above the mouth of the river, in latitude 47 deg. 21 min. 47 sec. north, and longitude 99 deg. 24 min. 56 sec. west from Greenwich. On the eighth of April, one thousand eight hundred and five, they proceeded up the river in pursuance of the objects prescribed to them. A letter of the preceding day, April seventh, from Captain Lewis, is herewith communicated. During his stay among the Mandans, he had been able to lay down the Missouri, according to courses and distances taken on his passage up it, corrected by frequent observations of longitude and latitude; and to add to the actual survey of this portion of the river, a general map of the country between the Mississippi and Pacific, from the thirty-fourth to the

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