

little exceeding a million of French acres. The banks of the river continue about thirty feet high, of which eighteen feet from the water is a clayey loam of a pale ash color, upon which the water has deposited twelve feet of light sandy soil, apparently fertile, and of a dark brown color. This description of land is of small breadth, not exceeding half a mile on each side of the river, and may be called the valley of the Washita, beyond which there is a high land covered with pine.

The soil of the "Bayou des Buttes" continues thin, with a growth of small timber. This creek is named from a number of Indian mounds discovered by the hunters along its course. The margin of the river begins to be covered with such timber as usually grows on inundated land, particularly a species of white oak, vulgarly called over-cup oak; its timber is remarkably hard, solid, ponderous, and durable; and it produces a large acorn in great abundance, upon which the bear feeds, and which is very fattening to hogs.

In latitude 32, 50, 3, N., they passed a long and narrow island. The face of the country begins to change; the banks are low and steep; the river deep and more contracted, from thirty to fifty yards in width. The soil in the neighborhood of the river is a very sandy loam, and covered with such vegetables as are found on the inundated lands of the Mississippi. The tract presents the appearance of new soil, very different from what they passed below. This alluvial tract may be supposed the site of a great lake, drained by a natural channel, from the abrasion of the waters: since which period, the annual inundations have deposited the superior soil; eighteen or twenty feet are wanting to render it habitable for man. It appears, nevertheless, well stocked with the beasts of the forest, several of which were seen.

Quantities of water fowl are beginning to make their appearance, which are not very numerous here until the cold rains and frosts compel them to leave a more northern climate. Fish are not so abundant as might be expected, owing, it is said, to the inundation of the Mississippi, in the year 1799, which dammed up the Washita, some distance above the post, and produced a stagnation and consequent corruption of the waters that destroyed all the fish within its influence.

At noon, on the 15th of November, they passed the island of Mallet; and at ninety yards northeast from the upper point of the island, by a good observation, ascertained their latitude to be 32, 59, 27, 5, N., or two seconds and a half of latitude south of the dividing line between the territories of Orleans and Louisiana. The bed of the river, along this alluvial country, is generally covered with water, and the navigation interrupted; but in the afternoon of this day, they passed three contiguous sand-bars, or beaches, called "Les trois battures," and before evening, the "Bayou de grand Marais," or Great Marsh creek on the right, and "La Cypreri Chattelrau," a point of high land on the other side, which reaches within half a mile of the river. As they advanced towards the Marais de Saline, on the right, a

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