

fied, perishes in the midst of his excesses; while those, whom a more noble passion, the love of science, stimulates, die without saying life has been long enough.

The cultivator or artisan must every day think on the wants of his family, which perhaps he is not able to relieve. If attacked by disease, who will comfort him? If he dies, who will take care of his children? If he attains old age, who will support him? If he has amassed wealth by his labours, his heirs regard each day as a thief! If he is poor, those to whom he is a burthen look forward to the moment of his death! Thus, men in civilized society pass their lives in following after shadows, without enjoying any real pleasure, and frequently die, regretting the past and dreading the future. It is certain, that many Whites have renounced the charms of a civilized life, to enjoy an unbounded liberty with savages; while we have never yet heard of a savage, who has renounced the pursuits of his youth, or sacrificed his pleasures to a civilized life. These people may be conquered, but no power on earth can make them laborious cultivators or artisans.

CHAP. XVI.

DEPARTURE FROM UPPER LOUISIANA.—CAPE GIRARDOT.
—NEW MADRID.—FORTS.—RIVER AND VILLAGE OF THE
ARKANSAS.—NATCHEZ.—ROCHE A DAVION, OR WIL-
KINSONVILLE.—RIVER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF WAS-
CHITA.—MONOPOLIES OF THE SPANISH COMMANDERS.

THE excessive heats common to Upper Louisiana in the months of August and September having abated, I determined to set out in the early part of October for New Orleans. Cape Girardot is the first place of any importance that I met with in my descent down the Mississippi. It is about eighty miles distant from St. Genevieve. Above one hundred and fifty Anglo-American families live there, dispersed over a great extent of country, where they cultivate corn, barley, maize, potatoes, and cotton, which are of a good quality, when the frosts do not set in very early.

New Madrid, one hundred miles from Cape Girardot, is of some consequence, on account of its situation. All the boats which descend this fine river, are obliged to stop there, declare of what their cargoes consist, their destination, and shew their passports. This place, as well as Cape Girardot, is under the controul of the lieutenant-governor of Upper Louisiana. Near to St. Genevieve, are many salt-springs, which supply not only the inhabitants of Louisiana, but also Tennessee, Con-