

down with its waters gold-dust ; from which there is reason to believe, that there are mines of this metal in that country. And as for silver-mines, there is no doubt but they might be found there, as well as in *New Mexico*, on which this province borders. A *Canadian* traveller, named *Bon Homme*, as he was hunting at some distance from the Post of the *Nachitoches*, melted some parcels of a mine, that is found in rocks at a very little distance from that Post, which appeared to be very good silver, without any farther purification *.

It will be objected to me, perhaps, that if there is any truth in what I advance, I should have come from that country laden with silver and gold ; and that if these precious metals are to be found there, as I have said, it is surprizing, that the *French* have never thought of discovering and digging them in thirty years, in which they have been settled in *Louisiana*. To this I answer, that this objection is only founded on the ignorance of those who make it ; and that a traveller, or an officer, ordered by his superiors to go to reconnoitre the country, to draw plans, and to give an account of what

* See a farther account and assay of this mine above.