

eight hundred leagues, running from the north-west to the south-east. The muddy waters of the Missouri prevail over those of the Mississippi, running with violent rapidity to the ocean. The Mississippi glides with a gentle and clear stream, 'till it meets with this interruption. The next river of note, is the Ohio or Belle Riviere; it empties itself about seventy leagues below the Missouri: its source is near the lake Erie, running from the north-east to the south-west, upwards of four hundred leagues.

Ninety leagues further down is the river Saint Francis, on the west side of the Mississippi: this is a very small river, and is remarkable for nothing but being the general rendez-vous of the hunters from New Orleans, who winter there, and make a provision of salted meats, fuet, and bears oil, for the supply of that city. The river Arkansas is thirty-five leagues lower down, and two hundred from New Orleans; it is so called from a nation of Indians of the same name; its source is said to be in the same latitude as Santa Fé in New Mexico, and holds its course near three hundred leagues.

The river Yazous comes from the north-east, and discharges itself into the Mississippi, sixty leagues from the Arkansas: formerly a nation of Indians of the same name had their villages on it, and there was a French post and settlement. The nation is entirely extinct, and there is not the least trace of any settlement.

It is near sixty leagues from this little river to the river Rouge, which is so called from its waters, being of a reddish colour, and they tinge those of the Mississippi at the time of the floods; its source is in New Mexico, and it runs about two hundred leagues: the river Noir empties itself into this river about ten leagues from its confluence. The famous Ferdinand Soto ended his discoveries at the entrance of the river Rouge, and was buried there.