

with a view to destroy or drive them entirely off, and possess themselves of their fine prairies, which are most abundant hunting grounds, being plentifully stocked with buffalo, elk, deer, bear, and every other beast of the forest common to those latitudes in America. This hunter having given information of a small spring in their vicinity, from which he frequently supplied himself by evaporating the water, Doctor Hunter, with a company, accompanied him, on the morning of the 29th November, to the place. They found a saline, about a mile and a half north of the camp from whence they set out, and near a creek which enters the Washita a little above. It is situated in the bottom of the bed of a dry gully. The surrounding land is rich and well timbered, but subject to inundation, except an Indian mound on the creek side, having a base of eighty or an hundred feet diameter, and twenty feet high. After digging about three feet, through blue clay, they came to a quick-sand, from which the water flowed in abundance; its taste was salt and bitter, resembling that of water in the ocean. In a second hole it required them to dig six feet before they reached the quick-sand, in doing which they threw up several broken pieces of Indian pottery. The specific gravity, compared with the river, was, from the first pit, or that three feet deep, 102,720; from the second pit, or that six feet deep, 102,104, yielding a saline mass, from the evaporation of ten quarts, which when dry weighed eight ounces: this brine is, therefore, about the same strength as that of the ocean on our coast, and twice the strength of the famous licks in Kentucky called Bullet's lick and Man's lick, from which so much salt is made.

The "Fourche de Cadoux" (Cadadoquis Fork) which they passed on the morning of the 30th, is about one hundred yards wide at its entrance into the Washita, from the left; immediately beyond which, on the same side, the land is high, probably elevated three hundred feet above the water. The shoals and rapids here impede their progress. At noon they deduced their latitude, by observation, to be 30, 11, 37, N. Receiving information of another salt lick, or saline, Doctor Hunter landed, with a party, to view it. The pit was found in a low flat place, subject to be overflowed from the river; it was wet and muddy, the earth on the surface yellow, but on digging through about four feet of blue clay, the salt water oozed from a quick-sand. Ten quarts of this water produced, by evaporation, six ounces of saline mass, which, from taste, was principally marine salt; to the taste, however, it showed an admixture of soda, and muriated magnesia, but the marine salt greatly preponderated. The specific gravity was about 1,076, probably weakened from the rain which had fallen the day before. The ascent of the river becomes troublesome, from the rapids and currents, particularly at the "Isle du bayou des Roches" (Rocky creek island), where it required great exertions, and was attended with some hazard to pass them. This island is three-fourths of a mile in length. The river presents a series of shoals, rapids, and small cataracts; and they passed several points of high land,

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