

ductory to this "Sou-
idea of how Detroit
etroit of to-day, and
y Antoine La Mothe
ctober 8th, 1701, and
of this city.

at of the writer and I
draw the picture of a
ne, but since you have
will do so promising
y a canal or river of
in length (his estimate
rom Lake Erie to Lake
south-south-west from
alline waters of Lakes
so many fresh water
ic, whence finally they
waters of the Ocean."
where the freshness of
rass a verdant green.
and extensive groves
solicitous hand of the
d fruit trees bend and
il which has produced
ambitious vine, which
ainstaking vinedresser
luxurious branches and
f whoever leans against
embrace it too closely.
ggregated by hundreds
the roe buck bounding
with which the ground
rkey calls together and
ng the grapes. * * *
artridge, the abundant

turtle dove, swarm in the woods and over the fields intersected
and broken by clusters of tall forest trees, which afford a charming
prospect such as alone can assuage the irksomeness of solitude.

* * * The woods are of ten varieties: walnut, white oak, red
oak, bastard ash, spruce, white wood, cotton wood, etc, but these
same trees are straight as arrows without knots and of prodigious
size. * * * The fish is nourishing and bathed in living crys-
talline water, its great abundance renders it no less delicious.
The swans are so great in number, that one might mistake them
for water lilies among which they are entangled. The babbling
goose, the teal, the bustard are so common, that in the language
of the savage, "there is so much that it arranges itself in lines to
permit a canoe to pass by." "Can we believe that a soil, on
which nature has distributed everything with so much order,
knows how to refuse, at the hand of the laborer inquisitive as to
its fertile interior any return that he may propose? In one
word, the climate is temperate, the atmosphere pure during the
day, the winds are moderate, and during the night the sky ever
serene diffuses sweet refreshing influences that enable one to
taste the blessings of tranquil sleep. If the situation is thereby
agreeable, it is now the less important, because it opens and
closes the door of passage to the homes of the far off savage nations
by whom then vast fresh water seas are surrounded."