

To give a general view of those countries, we should consider them as they are naturally divided into four parts; 1. the sea coast; 2. the Lower *Louisiana*, or western part of *Carolina*; 3. the Upper *Louisiana*, or western part of *Virginia*; and 4. the river *Mississipi*.

I. The sea coast is the same with all the rest of the coast of *North America* to the southward of *New York*, and indeed from thence to *Mexico*, as far as we are acquainted with it. It is all a low flat sandy beach, and the soil for some twenty or thirty miles distance from the shore, more or less, is all a *pine barren*, as it is called, or a sandy desert; with few or no good ports or harbours on the coast, especially in all those southern parts of *America*, from *Chesapeak* bay to *Mexico*. But however barren this coast is in other respects, it is entirely covered with tall pines, which afford great store of *pitch*, *tar*, and *turpentine*. These pines likewise make good masts for ships; which I have known to last for twenty odd years, when it is well known, that our common masts of the *New England* white pine will often decay in three or four years. These masts were of that kind; that is called the *pitch pine*, and *lightwood pine*; of which I knew a ship built that ran for sixteen;