

very numerous itinerant nation of Indians, who generally reside in the countries North of the Mississippi: A few of them have sometimes come to the French post, on the River Illinois, to barter skins and furs; but in general they dislike the Europeans, and have little inclination to be much acquainted with them. Their account is as follows: The river Mississippi rises from a very extensive swamp, and its waters are encreased by several rivers (some of them not inconsiderable) emptying themselves into it in its course to the fall of St. Anthony, which, by their accounts, is not less than seven hundred leagues from the great swamps: This is formed by a rock running a-crofs the river, and falls about twelve feet perpendicular; and this place is known to be eight hundred leagues from the sea. So that it is most probable that the Mississippi runs, at least, four thousand five hundred miles.

The principal rivers which fall into the Mississippi, below the fall of St. Anthony, are, the river St. Pierre, which comes from the West; Saint Croix, from the East; Moingona, which is two hundred and fifty leagues below the fall, comes from the West, and is said to run one hundred and fifty leagues; and the river Illinois, the source of which is near the lake Michigan, East of the Mississippi two hundred leagues.

The source of the river Missouri is unknown; the French traders go betwixt three and four hundred leagues up, to traffic with the Indians who inhabit near its banks, and this branch of commerce is very considerable; it employs annually eight thousand pounds worth of European goods, including a small quantity of rum, of all which the freight amounts to about one hundred per cent. Their returns are, at least, at the rate of three hundred per cent. so that they are certain of two hundred per cent. profit. The mouth of this great river is five leagues below the river Illinois, and is generally called five hundred from the sea, tho' in fact it is not more than four hundred and fifty. From its confluence to its source is supposed to be eight