

to cultivate; it never can admit of but one row of settlements. These plantations are interchangeably planted in sugar cane, rice, corn and cotton. Nothing can exceed the luxuriance of their crops." The coast lands were equally fertile. "The population of this district is 965 families; they have large stocks of very large-sized cattle, make considerable sugar and cotton for exportation." To the north between the coast and the Red River lay Appalusa, "a high, rich and beautiful country, skirted with clumps of flourishing trees, and interspersed with fine rich prairies,⁵ which produce corn and cotton in great perfection. But the immense flocks of cattle⁶ with which they are covered, are almost incredible; ten thousand head may be seen in one view." The upper country was no less promising. "The lands of Red River alone are capable of producing more tobacco than is now made in all the United States, and at less than one fourth part of the labour; and in all Louisiana, I think more than ten times as much cotton might be made as in the United States. The extreme fertility of this country, the vast quantities of flour, beef, pork, tobacco, sugar, etc., which it would yield, with the productions of its mines, independent of the disposal of vast quantities of vacant lands under no claims, render the acquisition of it to the United States of importance almost exceeding calculation."⁷

Hardly had the *Account of Louisiana* left the press when a survey of the less known portions of the new territory was inaugurated by a congressional appropriation for the exploration of the Red and Arkansas rivers. The definition of the boundary