

shows a brown soil mixed with sand. Near Cache Mason (Mason's hiding place) on the right, they stopped to examine a supposed coal mine. Doctor Hunter and the pilot set out for this purpose, and at about a mile and a half northwest from the boat, in the bed of a creek, they found a substance similar to what they had before met with under that name, though more advanced towards a state of perfect coal. At the bottom of the creek, in a place then dry, was found detached pieces of from fifty to one hundred pounds weight; adjoining to which lay wood changed into the same substance. A stratum of this coal, six inches thick, lay on both sides of this little creek, over another of yellow clay, and covered by one foot of gravel; on the gravel are eight inches of loam, which bear a few inches of vegetable mould. This stratum of coal is about three feet higher than the water in the creek, and appears manifestly to have been, at some period, the surface of the ground. The gravel and loam have been deposited there since by the waters. Some pieces of this coal were very black and solid, of an homogenous appearance, much resembling pit-coal, but of less specific gravity. It does not appear to be sufficiently impregnated with bitumen, but may be considered as vegetable matter in the progress of transmutation to coal.

Below the "Bayou de l'eau Froide," which runs into the Washita from the right, the river is one hundred and seventy yards, flowing through tolerable good land. They passed a beautiful forest of pines, and on the 20th fell in with an old Dutch hunter and his party, consisting in all of five persons.

This man had resided forty years on the Washita, and before that period had been up the Arkansas river, the White river, and the St. Francis; the two last, he informs, are of difficult navigation, similar to the Washita: but the Arkansas river is of great magnitude, having a large and broad channel, and when the water is low, has great sand banks, like those in the Mississippi. So far as he has been up it, the navigation is safe and commodious, without impediments from rocks, shoals, or rapids; its bed being formed of mud and sand. The soil on it is of the first rate quality. The country is easy of access, being lofty open forests, unembarrassed by canes or undergrowth. The water is disagreeable to drink, being of a red color, and brackish when the river is low. A multitude of creeks which flow into the Arkansas furnish sweet water, which the voyager is obliged to carry with him for the supply of his immediate wants. This man confirms the accounts of silver being abundant up that river: he has not been so high as to see it himself, but says he received a silver pin from a hunter, who assured him that he himself collected the virgin silver from the rock, out of which he made the epinglete by hammering it out. The tribe of the Osage live higher up than this position; but the hunters rarely go so high, being afraid of these savages, who are at war with all the world, and destroy all the strangers they meet with. It is reported that the Arkansas nation, with a part of the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Shawanees, &c., have formed a league, and are actually gone, or going, 800 strong, against these depredators,