

a westerly course ; the latter must evidently fall into the South seas.

About two hundred and seventy miles below where I wintered, or about four hundred and thirty miles from its mouth, two branches unite in one ; of these one is called the South branch, and the other the North branch. As I am the best acquainted with the latter, I confine myself particularly to it in this description.

I must not omit one particular relating to this river, which is the great quantity of Coal conveyed down by the current. I am of opinion that abundance of this mineral must be in the country above us, as a person once brought me down a piece he had taken from the earth, where it was piled up in heaps. And it was in every respect similar to that brought to London from the North of England and Scotland. He told me that he asked the Indians the use of it ; and on their expressing their ignorance, he put some of it in the fire which burnt violently to their great astonishment. However plenty it may be inland, it is certain there is