

that they are said to consist of thirty-two villages or towns; are exceedingly civilized, and vastly attached to certain religious ceremonies; that a Mr. Ch., a merchant of reputation at the Illinois, has been to their country, which is, as he supposes, upwards of a thousand miles from the Illinois.

Having been prevented from calling on you as I intended, I now return you the pamphlet, and will, at any time you please, procure you a meeting with that gentleman.

Your's, &c.

J. J.

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I have the satisfaction to add, that I have met the above gentleman several times; that he confirms the latter part of this narrative; that Mr. Ch. is a near relation of his; that when Mr. Ch. was introduced to the Chief of the Padouca nation, he was received with much solemnity, owing to his being of white complexion, and by which circumstance, as far as Mr. Ch. could understand by being amongst them, he was deemed an angel of God, his hands and feet being washed by order of the Chicftain, who appeared much advanced in years, his hair being long and perfectly white; that the people chiefly subsist by the produce of the chase; that the instruments they use on the occasion are generally bows and arrows; that the further he advanced from the frontiers, the different tribes he passed through were the more civilized; that he supposed the reason to be (which I am afraid is the case) owing to the continual encroachment made on their land by the white people in those parts contiguous to them.

The late transactions on the back frontiers of the United States of America, it is probable, are owing to the same circumstance. It may be necessary to remark, that the distance from the mouth of the Mississippi to the entrance of the Missouri into it, is about 1200 miles; that the navigation of the Mississippi upwards is tedious and difficult, owing to the current continually running the same way, by which means the vessels employed on the occasion seldom make that distance in less than three months; a light boat, well-manned, however, might go from New Orleans to the Missouri in six weeks, and from Kentucky on the Ohio in less than three weeks, whereas, on their return, the same distance is made in a few days; that the country bordering on those rivers is extremely fertile; that in very severe winters they are subject to frost, which is generally of short duration; that every