

boundary between the English and Spanish settlements, and the Spaniards in possession of the mouth of it, they may obstruct the passage of it and greatly dishearten those who make the first attempts; yet when the advantages that will certainly arise to settlers, are known, multitudes of adventurers, allured by the prospect of such abundant riches, will flock to it, and establish themselves, though at the expence of rivers of blood.

But should the nation that happens to be in possession of New Orleans prove unfriendly to the internal settlers, they may find a way into the gulph of Mexico, by the river Iberville, which empties itself from the Mississippi, after passing through lake Mauregas, into lake Ponchartrain, which has a communication with the sea, within the borders of West Florida. The river Iberville branches off from the Mississippi about eighty miles above New Orleans, and though it is at present choaked up in some parts, it might at an inconsiderable expence be made navigable, so as to answer all the purposes proposed.

Although the English have acquired since the last peace a more extensive knowledge of the interior parts than were ever obtained before, even by the French, yet many of their productions still remain unknown. And though I was not deficient either in assiduity or attention during the short time I remained in them, yet I must acknowledge that the intelligence I gained was not so perfect as I could wish, and that it requires further researches to make the world thoroughly acquainted with the real value of these long hidden realms.

The parts of the Mississippi of which no survey has hitherto been taken, amount to upwards of eight hundred miles, following the course of the stream, that is, from the Illinois to the Ouistconsin rivers. Plans of such as reach from the former to the gulph of Mexico, have been delineated by several hands and I have the pleasure to find that an actual survey of the intermediate parts of the Mississippi, between the Illinois river and the sea, which the Ohio, Cherokee, and Ouabache rivers, taken on the spot by a very ingenious gentleman,* is now

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