

the banks grow willows of a different form from those found below; and on the margin of the Mississippi; the last are very brittle; these, on the contrary, are extremely pliant, resembling the osier, of which they are probably a species.

At noon on the 24th, they arrived at the confluence of the Lesser Missouri with the Washita; the former is a considerable branch, perhaps the fourth of the Washita, and comes in from the left hand. The hunters often ascend the little Missouri, but are not inclined to penetrate far up, because it reaches near the great plains or prairies upon Red river, visited by the Lesser Osage tribes of Indians, settled on Arkansas; these last frequently carry war into the Cadadoquis tribe settled on the Red river, about west-southwest from this place; and, indeed, they are reported not to spare any nation or people. They are prevented from visiting the head waters of the Washita by the steep hills in which they rise. These mountains are so difficult to travel over, that the savages, not having an object sufficiently desirable, never attempt to penetrate to this river; and it is supposed to be unknown to this nation. The Cadadoquis, or Cadoux, as the French pronounce the word, may be considered as Spanish Indians; they boast, and it is said with truth, that they never have imbrued their hands in the blood of a white man. It is said that the stream of the Little Missouri, some distance from its mouth, flows over a bright splendid bed of mineral of a yellowish white color, (most probably martial pyrites;) that thirty years ago, several of the inhabitants, hunters, worked upon this mine, and sent a quantity of the ore to the government at New Orleans, and they were prohibited from working any more.

There is a great sameness in the appearance of the river banks; the islands are skirted with osier; and immediately within, on the bank, grows a range of birch trees and some willows; the more elevated banks are covered with cane, among which grow the oak, maple, elm, sycamore, ash, hickory, dog-wood, holly, iron-wood, &c. From the pilot they learned that there is a body of excellent land on the Little Missouri, particularly on the creek called the "Bayou a Terre Noire," which falls into it. This land extends to Red river, and is connected with the great prairies which form the hunting grounds of the Cadoux nation, consisting of about two hundred warriors. They are warlike, but frequently unable to defend themselves against the tribe of Osages, settled on the Arkansas river, who, passing round the mountains at the head of the Washita, and along the prairies, which separate them from the main chain on the west, where the waters of the Red and Arkansas rivers have their rise, pass into the Cadoux country, and rob and plunder them.

The water in the river Washita rising, the party are enabled to pass the numerous rapids and shoals which they meet with in the upper country, some of which are difficult of ascent. The general height of the main banks of the river is from six to twelve feet above the level of the water; the land is better in quality—the canes, &c., showing a more luxuriant vegetation. It is subject to inundation, and

show
hidp
min
abou
they
unde
coal.
tach
to w
this
over
the g
table
water
perio
depos
very
pit-co
cientl
ble m
Be
from
throu
and o
sisting
Th
period
Franc
to the
a larg
banks
navig
shoals
it is ol
lofty
water
when
Arkan
with h
the acc
so high
hunter
from th
out.
the hu
at war
with.
Chocta
are act