

notes of Michaux, however, give us no details of these excursions up to the month of April 1787, when he made his first journey to the Alleghanies, going up the Savannah River to its head, and thence gaining the heights of the mountain region. Having made friends with some of the Indians, he then ascended with them one of the tributaries of the Savannah, and reached a branch of the Tennessee on the other side of the mountains. This was the limit of his voyage, and he then returned to Charleston on the first of July, after a voyage of 300 leagues in South Carolina and Georgia. His manuscript notes of this journey contain many observations on the plants met with, and precise indications of their localities. In 1788 and 1789 he visited, successively, Florida, the Lucayan islands, and Virginia, passing through the mountain region of North Carolina. He returned to Charleston from this last excursion in September 1789, but revisited the region in the course of the following winter, accompanied by his son, reaching Charleston again in the spring of 1790, where he remained until April 1791. His notes during this year are wanting.

Michaux had now spent six years in America, his pecuniary resources were nearly exhausted, and he feared to be obliged to return to France without having completed his plans on this continent. He had long desired to add to his studies upon the American Flora, some researches on the geographical distribution of the forest trees, and to determine the native region of each, which he regarded as that in which the plant attains its greatest size and strength. The tulip-tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), for example, appears in Western Canada with a maximum height of sixty feet, and a diameter of three feet; while westward, and especially in Kentucky, where it forms by itself vast forests, it reaches a height of one hundred and forty feet, and a diameter of seven or eight feet. To the northward, on the contrary, it becomes rarer and smaller, and Michaux was hence led to regard this tree as a native of Kentucky. In accordance with these views, he resolved to study the topography of the North American trees. He had already extended his travels southward to Florida, but another journey, longer and more difficult, but still more important to his investigations, yet remained to be accomplished,—a visit to Canada and northward as far as Hudson's Bay. This project he attempted in 1792. Leaving Charleston in April, he proceeded northward by land, and, as we learn from his manuscript notes,