

runs through the rich and fertile country on the coast abovementioned.

The western part of this country is more fertile, says our author, than that on the east side of the *Mississipi*; in which part, however, says he, the lands are very fertile, with a rich black mould three feet deep on the hills, and much deeper in the bottoms, with a strong clayey foundation. Reeds and canes even grow upon the hill sides; which, with the oaks, walnuts, tulip-trees, &c. are a sure sign of a good and rich soil. And all along the *Mississipi* on both sides, *Dumont* tells, "The lands, which are all free from inundations, are excellent for culture, particularly those about *Baton Rouge*, *Cut-Point*, *Arkansas*, *Natches*, and *Yasous*, which produce *Indian Corn*, *Tobacco*, *Indigo*, &c. and all kinds of provisions and esculent plants, with little or no care or labour, and almost without culture; the soil being in all those places a black mould of an excellent quality*."

These accounts are confirmed by our own people, who were sent by the government of

* *Memoires*, I. 16.