

OF THE
POST and SETTLEMENTS
ON THE
MISSISSIPPI.

TO proceed with order and facility in describing the posts which are on the Mississippi, and those which communicate with that river, I shall begin with the Balize, and so go on, ascending the river. The island of Saint Carlos, of which I have before spoke, is near the entrance of the Mississippi, and lies in twenty-nine degrees north latitude, and in eighty-nine degrees ten minutes longitude from the meridian of London: there are houses for the residence of an officer, twenty soldiers, a pilot, and a chaplain. The reason of establishing this post, is that assistance may be given to vessels coming into the river, and to forward intelligence or dispatches to New Orleans: This is called the Balize as well as the French post, which lies two miles east of the entrance of the river, and was originally built with the same design, and as a defence for the mouth of the river: its situation (which is very low and swampy) would never admit of any strong fortification; but what there was, is now gone to ruin: nothing remains but the soldiers barracks, and three or four guns *en barbette*. From this place nothing is to be seen but low marshes, continually overflowed, till we get within a few leagues of the Detour de L'Anglois, where there are some few plantations, most of which are but very late establishments, and are, as yet, but of very little consequence. At the Detour the river forms almost a circle; so that vessels cannot pass it with the same wind that conducted them to it, and are obliged to wait for a shift of wind. This gave the idea to the French, of
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