

the rains, which fall during spring and a great part of summer.

The upper part of Pointe Coupée near the Mississippi, is inhabited by the descendants of the Acadians, who left their native country in 1714, when France gave it up to England. They seem to have remained in the same mediocrity in which they were when they first arrived in this colony. Their houses seem rather designed for the abode of animals than men; and their children, badly clothed, attract very little the attention of their parents. The Acadians are kind and hospitable; they never suffer a stranger to enter their houses, without offering to him refreshments; but he must be very hungry before he resolves to eat what they prepare.

Forty miles below Pointe Coupée, the chief objects of culture are cotton and rice: most of those that grow the latter are Germans, the ancient inhabitants of the colony, who live in ease on the produce of their lands. They are, like the Acadians, kind and hospitable to travellers, whom either business or bad weather has obliged to land on their coast, which has retained the name of the German Coast.

The inhabitants of Louisiana give the name of *bayou* to a sort of canal, which communicates from a river to the sea, and which at low water often remains dry. By one of these canals, I arrived at Atakapas, and from thence to Apelasas. These two settlements, which are reputed the most considerable of Louisiana in the interior, extend to the west as far as Natchitoches, with which they communicate. Apelasas, in a low and unhealthy soil, contains about eight hundred inhabitants; while Atakapas, whose lands are rich, elevated, and healthy, contains at least two thousand. These two settlements produce cotton in great quantities, maize, rice, &c. The inhabitants are active, laborious, and good cultivators. In each there is a garrison of about fifty or sixty men. The pecuniary importance of these posts, as well as all those on the Mississippi, occasions them to be sought with the greatest eagerness by superior officers, who in a few years are enabled to retire on a considerable fortune.

At the southern extremity of the German Coast, that is to say, at about sixty miles from New Orleans, orange-trees are seen growing in the open country. Below the German Coast they formerly cultivated indigo, which is although inferior in quality to that of the more southern colonies, sold at an advantageous price. Without speaking of this valuable plant, the description and preparation of which may be found in works on agriculture and chemistry, I shall only observe that there is an insect peculiar to this country, which, in the space of twenty-