

the town, on the summit of which is a garrison, and beyond it is an extensive prairie which affords plenty of hay.

"After the Indian attack on St. Louis in 1780, the government deemed it necessary to fortify the town. It was immediately stockaded and the stone bastion and the demi-lune at the upper end of it were constructed. The succeeding peace of 1783 lessened the danger and the works were suspended. In 1794, the garrison on the hill in the rear of the town and government house was completed. In 1797, when an unfriendly visit was expected from Canada, four stone towers were erected at nearly equal distances in a circular direction around the town, as also a wooden block house near the lower end of it. It was contemplated to enclose the town by a regular chain of works, and the towers were intended to answer the purposes of bastions. But as the times grew more auspicious the design was abandoned, and the works left in an unfinished state."

In his "Sketches of Louisiana," Phila., 1812, Stoddard says in his preface :

"It fell to my lot in the month of March, 1804, to take possession of Upper Louisiana under the treaty of cession. * * * The records and other public documents were open to my inspection; and, as it was my fortune to be stationed about five years on various parts of the Lower Mississippi, and nearly six months on Red river, my inquiries gradually extended to Louisiana in general.

"That country, even at that day, was less known than any other (inhabited by a civilized people), of the same extent on

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