effect. The fields here lie, as far as the eye can reach, flat beneath one's standing place, with only the levee to guard them from overflow. The bed of the river is, however, more extended, and the risk of damage no more than in the fields higher up stream that have a greater present elevation above its bed. The land forming the immediate bank of the Mississippi in the long stretch of 900 miles, from Cairo to Bayou Sara, is only to a very small extent cultivated ; on bluffs where cities are built, and occasionally where these bluffs are extended and fertile, plantations are established. The most common feature is a decline from the river bank into a more or less extended region of swamp, beyond which the land rises and the country is settled. The general impression left on the mind of the traveller is that of a magnificent solitude.

By a wise provision of the authorities of New Orleans (for there appears to be some authority here yet) vessels carrying live stock are made to discharge that portion of their cargo at the stock yards, about five miles above the city landing, and the decks must be washed down before proceeding to the place where men congregate. This process detained us about three hours, during which time of waiting we took a turn ashore. The landing is effected into the midst of a long extending range of stables, in which were numbers of Texan cattle of a very large growth—both cows and bullocks—and mostly in a rather rawboned condition, and in many cases rather untamed. Here were also a number of their drivers, with ponies and cumbrous Mexican saddles, and we witnessed some very clever evolutions of the riders following untamed cattle with a long rope attached to their horns. We walked half way round an extensive garden planted round with a thick belt of orange trees, on which hangs a good deal of fruit, mostly ripe, but some portion in its green state. Within we noticed roses blooming, and oleanders and other flowering plants growing. There