

nel of only sixty feet wide; without a guide, a stranger might take the passage for a creek.

Notwithstanding the lateness of the season, and the northern latitude they were in, they this day met with an alligator. The banks of the river are covered with cane, or thick under-brush, frequently so interwoven with thorns and briars as to be impenetrable. Birch, maple, holly, and two kinds of wood to which names have not yet been given, except "water-side wood," are here to be met with, as also persimmons and small black grapes. The margin of the river is fringed with a variety of plants and vines, among which are several species of convolvulus.

On the left they passed a hill and cliff, one hundred feet perpendicular, crowned with pines, and called "Cote de Fin," (Fin's Hill,) from which a chain of high land continues some distance. The cliff presents the appearance of an ash-colored clay. A little farther to the right is the Bayou de Acacia (Locust creek.) The river varies here from eighty to an hundred yards in width, presenting frequent indications of iron along its banks, and some thin strata of iron ore. The ore is from half an inch to three inches in thickness.

On the morning of the 22d of November, they arrived at the road of the Cadadoquis Indian nation, leading to the Arkansas nation; a little beyond this is the Ecor a Fabri (Fabri's cliffs), from eighty to an hundred feet high; a little distance above, a smaller cliff called "Le Petit Ecor a Fabri" (the little Cliff of Fabri); these cliffs appear chiefly to be composed of ash-colored sand, with a stratum of clay at the base, such as runs all along under the banks of this river. Above these cliffs are several rapids; the current is swifter, and denotes their ascent into a higher country: the water becomes clear and equal to any in its very agreeable taste, and as drinking water. In the river are immense beds of gravel and sand, over which the river passes with great velocity in the season of its floods, carrying with it vast quantities of drift wood, which it piles up in many places, to the height of twenty feet above the present surface, pointing out the difficulty and danger in certain times of the flood; accidents, however, are rare with the canoes of the country.

As the party ascended they found the banks of the river less elevated, being only from nine to twelve feet, and are probably surmounted some feet by the freshets. The river becomes more obstructed by rapids and sand and gravel beaches; among which are found fragments of stone of all forms, and a variety of colors, some highly polished and rounded by friction. The banks of the river in this upper country suffer greatly by abrasion, one side and sometimes both being broken down by every flood.

At a place called "Auges d' Arelon," (Arlan's troughs) is laminated iron ore, and a stratum of black sand, very tenacious, shining with minute chrystals. The breadth of the river is here about eighty yards: in some places, however, it is enlarged by islands, in others contracted to eighty or one hundred feet. Rocks of a grayish color, and rather friable, are here found in many places on the river. On