

7th CONGRESS.]

No. 162.

[2d SESSION.

CONCENTRATION OF THE PUBLIC OFFICES IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 13, 1803.

Mr. DAVIS, from the committee appointed to "inquire into the expediency of concentrating the several public offices and other public buildings belonging to the United States, in the city of Washington," reported:

That, in their opinion, no alteration ought to be made in the sites of the public offices, or other public buildings belonging to the United States, in the city of Washington.

7th CONGRESS.]

No. 163.

[2d SESSION.

APPLICATION FOR A SUBSCRIPTION, BY THE UNITED STATES, TO THE STOCK OF THE ALLEGANY TURNPIKE COMPANY.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 28, 1803.

Mr. RANDOLPH, from the committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry citizens on the Western waters, who have subscribed for shares in the Allegany turnpike road, praying for the aid and patronage of the United States in the completion of said road, made the following report:

That the United States have, by compact with the State of Ohio, already made provision for opening roads from the Atlantic to the Western waters; that, believing it to be a very questionable policy for the United States to become proprietors of a stock created by the laws of individual States, they respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the petitioners have leave to withdraw their petition.

8th CONGRESS.]

No. 164.

[1st SESSION.

DESCRIPTION OF LOUISIANA.

COMMUNICATED TO CONGRESS, ON THE 14TH OF NOVEMBER, 1803.

NOVEMBER 14, 1803.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

I now communicate a digest of the information I have received relative to Louisiana, which may be useful to the Legislature in providing for the government of the country. A translation of the most important laws in force in that province, now in the press, shall be the subject of a supplementary communication, with such further and material information as may yet come to hand.

TH: JEFFERSON.

AN ACCOUNT OF LOUISIANA.

The object of the following pages is to consolidate the information respecting the present state of Louisiana, furnished to the Executive by several individuals among the best informed upon that subject.

Of the province of Louisiana no general map, sufficiently correct to be depended upon, has been published, nor has any been yet procured from a private source. It is, indeed, probable that surveys have never been made upon so extensive a scale as to afford the means of laying down the various regions of a country, which, in some of its parts, appears to have been but imperfectly explored.

BOUNDARIES.

The precise boundaries of Louisiana, westward of the Mississippi, though very extensive, are at present involved in some obscurity. Data are equally wanting to assign with precision its northern extent. From the source of the Mississippi, it is bounded eastwardly, by the middle of the channel of that river, to the thirty-first degree of latitude; thence, it is asserted upon very strong grounds, that, according to its limits when formerly possessed by France, it stretches to the east as far, at least, as the river Perdido, which runs into the bay of Mexico, eastward of the river Mobile.

It may be consistent with the view of these notes to remark, that Louisiana, including the Mobile settlements, was discovered and peopled by the French, whose monarchs made several grants of its trade, in particular to Mr. Crosat, in 1712, and some years afterwards, with his acquiescence, to the well-known company projected by Mr. Law. This company was relinquished in the year 1731. By a secret convention, on the 3d November, 1762, the French Government ceded so much of the province as lies beyond the Mississippi, as well as the island of New Orleans, to Spain; and, by the treaty of peace which followed in 1763, the whole territory of France and Spain, eastward of the middle of the Mississippi, to the Iberville, thence, through the middle of that river and the lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain to the sea, was ceded to Great Britain. Spain having conquered the Floridas from Great Britain, during our revolutionary war, they were confirmed to her by the treaty of peace of 1783. By the treaty of St. Ildefonso, of the 1st of October, 1800, His Catholic Majesty promises and engages on his part to cede back to the French republic, six months after the full and entire execution of the conditions and stipulations therein contained, relative to the Duke of Parma, "the colony or province of Louisiana, with the same extent that it actually has in the hands of Spain, that it had when France possessed it, and such as it ought to be after the treaties subsequently entered into between Spain and other States." This treaty was confirmed and enforced by that of Madrid, of the 21st of March, 1801. From France it passed to us by the treaty of the 30th of April last, with a reference to the above clause as descriptive of the limits ceded.

DIVISIONS OF THE PROVINCE.

The province as held by Spain, including a part of West Florida, is laid off into the following principal divisions: Mobile, from Balise to the city, New Orleans, and the country on both sides of lake Pontchartrain, First and Second German Coasts, Catahanose, Fourche, Venezuela, Iberville, Galveztown, Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupée, Attakapas, Opelousas, Ouachita, Avoyelles, Rapide, Natchitoches, Arkansas, and the Illinois.

In the Illinois there are commandants at New Madrid, St. Genevieve, New Bourbon, St. Charles, and St. Andrew's, all subordinate to the commandant-general.

Baton Rouge having been made a Government subsequently to the treaty of limits, &c. with Spain, the posts of Manchac and Thompson's creek, or Feliciana, were added to it.

Chapitoulas has sometimes been regarded as a separate command, but is now included within the jurisdiction of the city. The lower part of the river has likewise had occasionally a separate commandant.

Many of the present establishments are separated from each other by immense and trackless deserts, having no communication with each other by land, except now and then a solitary instance of its being attempted by hunters, who have to swim rivers, expose themselves to the inclemency of the weather, and carry their provisions on their backs for a time, proportioned to the length of their journey. This is particularly the case on the west of the Mississippi, where the communication is kept up only by water between the capital and the distant settlements; three months being required to convey intelligence from the one to the other by the Mississippi. The usual distance accomplished by a boat in ascending is five leagues per day. The rapidity of the current, in the spring season especially, when the waters of all the rivers are high, facilitates the descent, so that the same voyage by water, which requires three or four months to perform from the capital, may be made to it in from twelve to sixteen days. The principal settlements in Louisiana are on the Mississippi, which begins to be cultivated about twenty leagues from the sea, where the plantations are yet thin, and owned by the poorest people. Ascending, you see them improve on each side till you reach the city, which is situated on the east bank, on a bend of the river, thirty-five leagues from the sea.

CHAPITOULAS, FIRST AND SECOND GERMAN COASTS, CATAHANOSE, FOURCHE, AND IBERVILLE.

The best and most improved are above the city, and comprehend what is there known by the Paroisse de Chapitoulas, Premier and Second Cote des Allemands, and extend sixteen leagues.

Above this begins the parish of Catahanose, or first Acadian settlement, extending eight leagues on the river. Adjoining it, and still ascending, is the second Acadian settlement, or parish of the Fourche, which extends about six leagues. The parish of Iberville then commences, and is bounded on the east side by the river of the same name; which, though dry a great part of the year, yet, when the Mississippi is raised, it communicates with the lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain, and through them with the sea, and thus form what is called the island of New Orleans. Except on the point just below the Iberville, the country from New Orleans is settled the whole way along the river, and presents a scene of uninterrupted plantations in sight of each other, whose fronts to the Mississippi are all cleared, and occupy on that river from five to twenty-five acres, with a depth of forty; so that a plantation of five acres in front contains two hundred. A few sugar plantations are formed in the parish of Catahanose, but the remainder is devoted to cotton and provisions, and the whole is an excellent soil incapable of being exhausted. The plantations are but one deep on the island of New Orleans, and on the opposite side of the river, as far as the mouth of the Iberville, which is thirty-five leagues above New Orleans.

BAYOU DE LA FOURCHE, ATTAKAPAS, AND OPELOUSAS.

About twenty-five leagues from the last-mentioned place, on the west side of the Mississippi, the creek or bayou of the Fourche, called in old maps *La Rivière des Chitamaches*, flows from the Mississippi, and communicates with the sea, to the west of the Balise. The entrance of the Mississippi is navigable only at high water, but will then admit of craft of from sixty to seventy tons burden. On both banks of this creek are settlements, one plantation deep, for near fifteen leagues; and they are divided into two parishes. The settlers are numerous, though poor, and the culture is universally cotton. On all creeks, making from the Mississippi, the soil is the same as on the bank of the river, and the border is the highest part of it, from whence it descends gradually to the swamp. In no place on the low lands is there depth more than suffices for one plantation before you come to the low grounds incapable of cultivation. This creek affords one of the communications to the two populous and rich settlements of Attakapas and Opelousas, formed on and near the small rivers Teche and Vermilion, which flow into the bay of Mexico. But the principal and swiftest communication is by the bayou or creek of Plaquemines, whose entrance into the Mississippi is seven leagues higher up on the same side, and thirty-two above New Orleans. These settlements abound in cattle and horses, have a large quantity of good land in their vicinity, and may be made of great importance. A part of their produce is sent by sea to New Orleans, but the greater part is carried in batteaux by the creeks above mentioned.

BATON ROUGE AND ITS DEPENDENCIES.

Immediately above the Iberville, and on both sides of the Mississippi, lies the parish of Manchac, which extends four leagues on the river, and is well cultivated. Above it commences the settlement of Baton Rouge, extending

about nine leagues. It is remarkable as being the first place where the high land is contiguous to the river, and here it forms a bluff from thirty to forty feet above the greatest rise of the river. Here the settlements extend a considerable way back on the east side; and this parish has that of Thompson's creek and bayou Sara subordinate to it. The mouth of the first of these creeks is about forty-nine leagues from New Orleans, and that of the latter two or three leagues higher up. They run from northeast to southwest, and their head waters are north of the thirty-first degree of latitude. Their banks have the best soil, and the greatest number of good cotton plantations, of any part of Louisiana, and are allowed to be the garden of it.

POINTE COUPEE AND FAUSSE RIVIERE.

Above Baton Rouge, at the distance of fifty leagues from New Orleans, and on the west side of the Mississippi, is Pointe Coupée, a populous and rich settlement, extending eight leagues along the river. Its produce is cotton. Behind it, on an old bed of the river, now a lake, whose outlets are closed up, is the settlement of Fausse Rivière, which is well cultivated.

In the space now described from the sea, as high as and including the last-mentioned settlement, are contained three-fourths of the population, and seven-eighths of the riches of Louisiana.

From the settlement of Pointe Coupée, on the Mississippi, to Cape Girardeau, above the mouth of the Ohio, there is no land on the west side that is not overflowed in the spring to the distance of eight or ten leagues from the river, with from two to twelve feet of water, except a small spot near New Madrid; so that, in the whole extent, there is no possibility of forming a considerable settlement contiguous to the river on that side. The eastern bank has, in this respect, a decided advantage over the western, as there are on it many situations which effectually command the river.

RED RIVER AND ITS SETTLEMENTS.

On the west side of the Mississippi, seventy leagues from New Orleans, is the mouth of the Red river, on whose banks and vicinity are the settlements of Rapide, Avoyelles, and Natchitoches, all of them thriving and populous. The latter is situate seventy-five leagues up the Red river. On the north side of the Red river, a few leagues from its junction with the Mississippi, is the Black river; on one of whose branches, a considerable way up, is the infant settlement of Ouachita, which, from the richness of the soil, may be made a place of importance. Cotton is the chief produce of these settlements; but they have likewise a considerable Indian trade. The river Rouge, or Red river, is used to communicate with the frontiers of New Mexico.

CONCORD, ARKANSAS, ST. CHARLES, ST. ANDREW, &c.

There is no other settlement on the Mississippi, except the small one called Concord, opposite to the Natchez, till you come to the Arkansas river, whose mouth is two hundred and fifty leagues above New Orleans. Here there are but a few families, who are more attached to the Indian trade (by which chiefly they live) than to cultivation. There is no settlement from this place to New Madrid, which is itself inconsiderable. Ascending the river, you come to Cape Girardeau, St. Genevieve, and St. Louis, where, though the inhabitants are numerous, they raise little for exportation, and content themselves with trading with the Indians and working a few lead mines. This country is very fertile, especially on the banks of the Missouri, where there have been formed two settlements, called St. Charles and St. Andrew, mostly by emigrants from Kentucky. The peltry procured in the Illinois is the best sent to the Atlantic market, and the quantity is very considerable. Lead is to be had with ease, and in such quantities as to supply all Europe, if the population were sufficient to work the numerous mines to be found within two or three feet from the surface in various parts of the country. The settlements about the Illinois were first made by the Canadians, and their inhabitants still resemble them in their aversion to labor, and love of a wandering life. They contain but few negroes compared with the number of the whites; and it may be taken for a general rule, that, in proportion to the distance from the capital, the number of blacks diminishes below that of the whites; the former abounding most on the rich plantations in its vicinity.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF UPPER LOUISIANA.

When compared with the Indiana Territory, the face of the country in Upper Louisiana is rather more broken, though the soil is equally fertile. It is a fact, not to be contested, that the west side of the river possesses some advantages not generally incident to those regions. It is elevated and healthy, and well watered with a variety of large, rapid streams, calculated for mills and other water-works. From Cape Girardeau, above the mouth of the Ohio, to the Missouri, the land on the east side of the Mississippi is low and flat, and occasionally exposed to inundations; that on the Louisiana side, contiguous to the river, is generally much higher, and in many places very rocky on the shore. Some of the heights exhibit a scene truly picturesque. They rise to a height of at least three hundred feet, faced with perpendicular *lime* and *free-stone*, carved into various shapes and figures by the hand of nature, and afford the appearance of a multitude of antique towers. From the tops of these elevations the land gradually slopes back from the river, without gravel or rock, and is covered with valuable timber. It may be said, with truth, that for fertility of soil no part of the world exceeds the borders of the Mississippi: the land yields an abundance of all the necessaries of life, and almost spontaneously; very little labor being required in the cultivation of the earth. That part of Upper Louisiana which borders on North Mexico is one immense *prairie*. It produces nothing but grass. It is filled with buffalo, deer, and other kinds of game. The land is represented as too rich for the growth of forest trees.

It is pretended that Upper Louisiana contains in its bowels many silver and copper mines, and various specimens of both are exhibited. Several trials have been made to ascertain the fact; but the want of skill in the artists has hitherto left the subject undecided.

The salt works are also pretty numerous: some belong to individuals; others to the public. They already yield an abundant supply for the consumption of the country, and, if properly managed, might become an article of more general exportation. The usual price per bushel is one dollar and a half in *cash* at the works. The price will be still lower as soon as the manufacture of the salt is assumed by Government, or patronized by men who have large capitals to employ in the business. One extraordinary fact, relative to salt, must not be omitted. There exists, about one thousand miles up the Missouri, and not far from that river, a *salt mountain*. The existence of such a mountain might well be questioned, were it not for the testimony of several respectable and enterprising traders who have visited it, and who have exhibited several bushels of the salt to the curiosity of the people of St. Louis, where some of it still remains. A specimen of the same salt has been sent to Marietta. This mountain is said to be one hundred and eighty miles long, and forty-five in width, composed of solid rock salt, without any trees, or even shrubs on it. Salt springs are very numerous beneath the surface of this mountain, and they flow through the fissures and cavities of it. Caves of saltpetre are found in Upper Louisiana, though at some

distance from the settlements. Four men, on a trading voyage, lately discovered one several hundred miles up the Missouri. They spent five or six weeks in the manufacture of this article, and returned to St. Louis with four hundredweight of it. It proved to be good, and they sold it for a high price.

The geography of the Mississippi and Missouri, and their contiguity for a great length of way, are but little known. The traders assert that, one hundred miles above their junction, a man may walk from one to the other in a day; and it is also asserted that, seven hundred miles still higher up, the portage may be crossed in four or five days. This portage is frequented by traders who carry on a considerable trade with some of the Missouri Indians. Their general route is through Green Bay, which is an arm of Lake Michigan; they then pass into a small lake connected with it, and which communicates with the Fox river; they then cross over a short portage into the Ouisconsin river, which unites with the Mississippi some distance below the falls of St. Anthony. It is also said that the traders communicate with the Mississippi above these falls, through Lake Superior; but their trade in that quarter is much less considerable.

CANAL OF CARONDELET.

Behind New Orleans is a canal about a mile and a half long, which communicates with a creek called the bayou St. Jean, flowing into Lake Pontchartrain. At the mouth of it, about two and a half leagues from the city, is a small fort called St. Jean, which commands the entrance from the lake. By this creek the communication is kept up through the lake and the Rigolets to Mobile and the settlements in West Florida. Craft drawing from six to eight feet water can navigate to the mouth of the creek; but, except in particular swells of the lake, cannot pass the bar without being lightened.

ST. BERNARDO.

On the east side of the Mississippi, about five leagues below New Orleans, and at the head of the English bend, is a settlement known by the name of the Poblacion de St. Bernardo, or the Terre aux Bœufs, extending on both sides of a creek or drain, whose head is contiguous to the Mississippi, and which flowing eastward, after a course of eighteen leagues, and dividing itself into two branches, falls into the sea and Lake Borgne. This settlement consists of two parishes, almost all the inhabitants of which are Spaniards from the Canaries, who content themselves with raising fowls, corn, and garden-stuff for the market at New Orleans. The lands cannot be cultivated to any great distance from the banks of the creek, on account of the vicinity of the marsh behind them, but the place is susceptible of great improvement, and of affording another communication to small craft of from eight to ten feet draught, between the sea and the Mississippi.

SETTLEMENTS BELOW THE ENGLISH TURN.

At the distance of sixteen leagues below New Orleans, the settlements on both banks of the river are of but small account. Between these and the fort of Plaquemines the country is overflowed in the spring, and, in many places, is incapable of cultivation at any time, being a morass almost impassable by man or beast. This small tongue of land extends considerably into the sea, which is visible on both sides of the Mississippi from a ship's mast.

COUNTRY FROM PLAQUEMINES TO THE SEA, AND EFFECT OF THE HURRICANES.

From Plaquemines to the sea is twelve or thirteen leagues. The country is low, swampy, chiefly covered with reeds, having little or no timber, and no settlement whatever. It may be necessary to mention here, that the whole lower part of the country, from the English Turn downward, is subject to overflowing in hurricanes, either by the recoiling of the river, or reflux from the sea on each side; and, on more than one occasion, it has been covered from the depth of two to ten feet, according to the descent of the river, whereby many lives were lost, horses and cattle swept away, and a scene of destruction laid. The last calamity of this kind happened in 1794; but, fortunately, they are not frequent. In the preceding year the engineer who superintended the erection of the fort of Plaquemines was drowned in his house near the fort, and the workmen and garrison escaped only by taking refuge on an elevated spot in the fort, on which there were, notwithstanding, two or three feet of water. These hurricanes have generally been felt in the month of August. Their greatest fury lasts about twelve hours. They commence in the southeast, veer about to all points of the compass, are felt most severely below, and seldom extend more than a few leagues above New Orleans. In their whole course they are marked with ruin and desolation. Until that of 1793, there had been none felt from the year 1780.

PASSES, OR MOUTHS OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

About eight leagues below Plaquemines the Mississippi divides itself into three channels, which are called the passes of the river, viz: the East, South, and Southwest passes. Their course is from five to six leagues to the sea. The space between is a marsh, with little or no timber on it; but, from its situation, it may hereafter be rendered of importance. The East Pass, which is on the left hand going down the river, is divided into two branches about two leagues below, viz: the Pass à la Loutre, and that known to mariners by the name of the Balise, at which there is a small block-house and some huts of the pilots, who reside only here. The first of these secondary channels contains at present but eight feet water; the latter from fourteen to sixteen, according to the seasons. The South Pass, which is directly in front of the Mississippi, has always been considered as entirely choked up, but has ten feet water. The Southwest Pass, which is on the right, is the longest and narrowest of all the passes, and a few years ago had eighteen feet water, and was that by which the large ships always entered and sailed from the Mississippi. It has now but eight feet water, and will probably remain so for some time. In speaking of the quantity of water in the passes, it must be understood of what is on the bar of each pass; for immediately after passing the bar, which is very narrow, there are from five to seven fathoms at all seasons.

COUNTRY EAST OF LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN.

The country on the east side of lake Pontchartrain to Mobile, and including the whole extent between the American line, the Mississippi above New Orleans, and the lakes, (with the exception of a tract of about thirty miles on the Mississippi, and as much square, contiguous to the line, and comprehending the waters of Thompson's creek, bayou Sara, and the Amet,) is a poor, thin soil, overgrown with pine, and contains no good land whatever, unless on the banks of a few small rivers. It would, however, afford abundant supplies of pitch, tar, and pine lumber, and would feed large herds of cattle.

THE INHABITANTS, AND THEIR ORIGIN.

The inhabitants of Louisiana are chiefly the descendants of the French and Canadians. There are a considerable number of English and Americans in New Orleans. The two German coasts are peopled by the descendants

of settlers from Germany, and a few French mixed with them. The three succeeding settlements, up to Baton Rouge, contain mostly Acadians, banished from Nova Scotia by the English, and their descendants. The Government of Baton Rouge, especially the east side, which includes all the country between the Iberville and the American line, is composed partly of Acadians, a very few French, and of a great majority of Americans. On the west side they are mostly Acadians; at Pointe Coupée and Fausse Rivière they are French and Acadians. Of the population of the Attakapas and Opelousas, a considerable part is American. Natchitoches, on the Red River, contains but a few Americans, and the remainder of the inhabitants are French; but the former are more numerous in the other settlements on that river, viz: Avoyelles, Rapide, and Ouachita. At Arkansas they are mostly French, and at New Madrid Americans. At least two-fifths, if not a greater proportion of all the settlers on the Spanish side of the Mississippi, in the Illinois country, are likewise supposed to be Americans. Below New Orleans the population is altogether French and the descendants of Frenchmen.

NEW ORLEANS.

By recurring to the maps, and examining the position of Louisiana, it will appear that the lower part projects considerably into the sea. It has, in all probability, been formed by the sediment brought down by the current and deposited on the flat coast. There is, therefore, on the east side but a very narrow slip along the bank of the river, from the sea to the Iberville. The land is not generally susceptible of cultivation more than a mile in depth from the river; the rest is low and swampy to the lakes and the sea, but in general abounds with cypress timber, which is sawed by mills, which are worked by artificial streams from the Mississippi, in the time of freshets. They generally run five months in the year.

What has been said of the east equally applies to the west side of the river. The soil and situation are nearly the same. After leaving the bank of the river there is an immense swamp, intersected by creeks and lakes, extending to the high lands of Attakapas, and occupying a space of thirty or forty leagues.

The city of New Orleans, which is regularly laid out on the east side of the Mississippi, in latitude 30° north, and longitude 90° west, extends nearly a mile along the river, from the gate of France on the south, to that of Chapitoulas above, and a little more than one-third of a mile in breadth from the river to the rampart; but it has an extensive suburb on the upper side. The houses in front of the town, and for a square or two backwards, are mostly of brick, covered with slate or tile, and many of two stories. The remainder are of wood, covered with shingles. The streets cross each other at right angles, and are thirty-two French feet wide. The squares between the intersections of the streets have a front of three hundred French feet. There is in the middle of the front of the city a *place d'armes*, facing which the church and town-house are built. There are from twelve to fourteen hundred houses in the city and suburbs. The population may be estimated at ten thousand, including the seamen and garrison. It was fortified in 1793; but the works were originally defective, could not have been defended, and are now in ruins. The powder magazine is on the opposite bank of the river.

The public buildings, and other public property in New Orleans, are as follows:

Two very extensive brick stores, from one hundred and sixty to one hundred and eighty feet in length, and about thirty in breadth. They are one story high, and covered with shingles.

A Government house, stables, and garden, occupying a front of about two hundred and twenty feet on the river, in the middle of the town, and extending three hundred and thirty-six feet back to the next street.

A military hospital.

An ill built custom-house of wood, almost in ruins, in the upper part of the city, near the river.

An extensive barrack in the lower part of the city, fronting on the river, and calculated to lodge twelve or fourteen hundred men.

A large lot adjoining the King's stores, with a few sheds in it. It serves as a park for artillery.

A prison, town-house, market-house, assembly room, some ground rents, and the common about the town.

A public school for the rudiments of the Spanish language.

A cathedral church unfinished, and some houses belonging to it.

A charitable hospital, with some houses belonging to it, and a revenue of \$1,500 annually, endowed by an individual lately deceased.

The Canal de Carondelet has been already described.

NUMBER OF INHABITANTS.

According to the annexed census, (No. 2.) of Louisiana, including Pensacola and the Natchez, as made in 1785, the whole number of inhabitants amounted to thirty-two thousand and sixty-two, of which fourteen thousand two hundred and fifteen were free whites, one thousand three hundred and three free people of color, and sixteen thousand five hundred and forty-four slaves.

The statement No. 3, from the latest documents, makes the whole number forty-two thousand three hundred and seventy-five; the free whites, twenty-one thousand two hundred and forty-four; the free people of color, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight; and the slaves, twelve thousand nine hundred and twenty.

A particular statement respecting the population, &c. of Upper Louisiana, and another containing the census of New Orleans, in this year, are numbered 4 and 5, in the appendix.

These papers certainly exhibit a smaller number than the real population of the country. From an official document, made in July last, and received from Attakapas since the statement No. 3 was formed, it appears that it contained two thousand two hundred and seventy whites, two hundred and ten free people of color, one thousand two hundred and sixty-six slaves; in all, three thousand seven hundred and forty-six souls, instead of one thousand four hundred and forty-seven, as therein stated. It is highly probable that the return for the neighboring district of Opelousas is in the same proportion underrated.

A conjectural estimation, made by a gentleman of great respectability and correct information, residing at Natchez, raises the number of whites in the island of New Orleans, on the west side of the river, and some settlements on the east side, to fifty thousand one hundred and fifty, and the number of blacks to thirty-nine thousand eight hundred and twenty. His statement is also subjoined, No. 6.

It is at all times difficult to obtain the full census of a country, and the impediments are increased in this, from its scattered population. The actual enumeration may, therefore, fall short of the true numbers.

MILITIA.

There is a militia in Louisiana. The following is the return of it, made to the court of Spain by the Baron of Carondelet.

From Balise to the city.—Volunteers of the Mississippi—4 companies of 100 men each—complete, -	400
City.—Battalion of the city, 5 companies, -	500
Artillery company, with supernumeraries, -	120
Carabineers, or privileged companies of horse, 2 companies of 70 each, incomplete, -	100
Mulattoes, 2 companies; negroes 1 do. -	300
Mixed legion of the Mississippi, comprehending Galveztown, Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupée, Attakapas and Opelousas, viz:	
2 companies of grenadiers,	
8 companies of fusileers,	
4 companies of dragoons,	
2 companies lately added from Bayou Sara,	
16 companies of 100 men each, -	1,600
Avoyelles, 1 company of infantry, -	100
Ouachita, 1 company of cavalry, -	100
Natchitoches, 1 company of infantry and 1 of cavalry, -	200
Arkansas, 1 company of infantry and cavalry, -	100
Illinois, 4 companies of cavalry and 4 of infantry; these are always above the complement, -	800
Provincial regiment of Germans and Acadians, from the 1st German coast to Iberville, 10 companies, viz: 2 of grenadiers, 8 of fusileers, -	1,000
Mobile, and the country east of Lake Ponchartrain, 2 companies of horse and foot, incomplete, -	120
	5,440

The same gentleman alluded to, page 348, makes the number of the militia to amount to 10,340 men within same limits to which his estimate of the population applies. He distributes them in the several settlements as follows:

1. The island of New Orleans, with the opposite margin and the adjacent settlements, -	5,000
2. The west margin from Manchac, including Pointe Coupée, and extending to the Red River, -	800
3. Attakapas, along the coast, between the delta of the Mississippi and the river Sabine, -	350
4. Opelousas, -	750
5. Red River, including bayou Bœuf, Avoyelles, Rapides, and Natchitoches, -	1,000
6. Ouachita, -	300
7. Concord, -	40
8. Arkansas, -	150
9. New Madrid and its vicinity, -	350
10. Illinois and Missouri, -	1,000
11. The settlements on the east side of the Mississippi, from the American line to the Iberville, and some other settlements, -	600
	10,340

It is to be observed that none of these statements include the country beyond the river Sabine, nor even all those which lie eastwardly of it. Data are also wanting to give them.

FORTIFICATIONS.

St. Louis has a lieutenant colonel to command in it, and but few troops. Baton Rouge is an ill constructed fort, and has about fifty men. In describing the canal of Carondelet, the small fort of St. Jean has been mentioned, as has the block-house at the Balise, in its proper place. The fortifications of New Orleans, noticed before, consist of five ill constructed redoubts, with a covered way, palisade, and ditch. The whole is going fast to decay, and it is supposed they would be of but little service in case of an attack. Though the powder magazine is on the opposite side of the river, there is no sufficient provision made for its removal to the city in case of need.

The fort of Plaquemines, which is about twelve or thirteen leagues from the sea, is an ill constructed, irregular brick work, on the eastern side of the Mississippi, with a ditch in front of the river, and protected on the lower side by a deep creek, flowing from the river to the sea. It is, however, imperfectly closed behind, and almost without defence there; too much reliance having been placed on the swampiness of the ground which hardens daily. It might be taken, perhaps, by escalade, without difficulty. It is in a degree ruinous. The principal front is meant to defend the approach from sea, and can oppose, at most, but eight heavy guns. It is built at a turn in the river where ships in general must anchor, as the wind which brings them up so far is contrary in the next reach which they mostly work through; and they would therefore be exposed to the fire of the fort. On the opposite bank are the ruins of a small closed redoubt, called Fort Bourbon, usually garrisoned by a serjeant's command. Its fire was intended to flank that of the fort of Plaquemines, and prevent shipping and craft from ascending or descending on that side. When a vessel appears, a signal is made on one side, and answered on the other. Should she attempt to pass, without sending a boat on shore, she would be immediately fired upon.

INDIANS.

The Indian nations within the limits of Louisiana are, as far as known, as follows: and consist of the numbers hereafter specified.

On the eastern bank of the Mississippi, about twenty-five leagues above Orleans, are the remains of the nation of Houmas, or red men, which do not exceed sixty persons. There are no other Indians settled on this side of the river, either in Louisiana or West Florida, though they are at times frequented by parties of wandering Choctaws.

On the west side of the Mississippi are the remains of the Tounicas, settled near, and above Pointe Coupée, on the river, consisting of fifty or sixty persons.

In the Attakapas.—On the lower parts of the Bayou Teche, at about eleven or twelve leagues from the sea, are two villages of Chitimachas, consisting of about one hundred souls.

The Attakapas, properly so called, dispersed throughout the district, and chiefly on the bayou or creek of Vermilion, about one hundred souls.

Wanderers of the tribes of Bilexis and Choctaws, on Bayou Crocodile, which empties into the Teche, about fifty souls.

In the Opelousas, to the northwest of Attakapas.—Two villages of Alabamas in the centre of the district near the church, consisting of one hundred persons.

Conchates dispersed through the country, as far west as the river Sabina, and its neighborhood, about three hundred and fifty persons.

On the river Rouge.—At Avoyelles, nineteen leagues from the Mississippi, is a village of the Biloni nation, and another on the lake of the Avoyelles; the whole about sixty souls.

At the Rapides, twenty-six leagues from the Mississippi, is a village of Choctaws of one hundred souls, and another of Biloxes, about two leagues from it, of about one hundred more; about eight or nine leagues higher up the Red River is a village of about fifty souls. All these are occasionally employed by the settlers in their neighborhood as boatmen.

About eighty leagues above Natchitoches, on the Red River, is the nation of the Cadoquies, called by abbreviation Cados; they can raise from three to four hundred warriors; are the friends of the whites, and are esteemed the bravest and most generous of all the nations in this vast country; they are rapidly decreasing, owing to intemperance and the numbers annually destroyed by the Osages and Choctaws.

There are, besides the foregoing, at least four to five hundred families of Choctaws, who are dispersed on the west side of the Mississippi, on the Ouachita and Red rivers, as far west as Natchitoches, and the whole nation would have emigrated across the Mississippi had it not been for the opposition of the Spaniards and the Indians on that side who had suffered by their aggressions.

On the river Arkansas, &c.—Between the Red River and the Arkansas there are but a few Indians, the remains of tribes almost extinct. On this last river is the nation of the same name, consisting of about two hundred and sixty warriors; they are brave, yet peaceable and well disposed, and have always been attached to the French, and espoused their cause in their wars with the Chickasaws, whom they have always resisted with success. They live in three villages; the first is at eighteen leagues from the Mississippi, on the Arkansas river, and the others are at three and six leagues from the first. A scarcity of game on the eastern side of the Mississippi has lately induced a number of Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, &c. to frequent the neighborhood of Arkansas, where game is still in abundance; they have contracted marriages with the Arkansas, and seem inclined to make a permanent settlement, and incorporate themselves with that nation. The number is unknown, but is considerable, and is every day increasing.

On the river St. Francis, in the neighborhood of New Madrid, Cape Girardeau, Rivière à la Pomme, and the environs, are settled a number of vagabonds, emigrants from the Delawares, Shawnese, Miamis, Chickasaws, Cherokees, Piorias, and supposed to consist in all of five hundred families; they are at times troublesome to the boats descending the river, and have even plundered some of them and committed a few murders; they are attached to liquor, seldom remain long in any place; many of them speak English, all understand it, and there are some who even read and write it.

At St. Genevieve, in the settlement among the whites, are about thirty Piorias, Kaskaskias, and Illinois, who seldom hunt for fear of the other Indians; they are the remains of a nation which, fifty years ago, could bring into the field one thousand two hundred warriors.

On the Missouri.—On the Missouri and its waters are many and numerous nations, the best known of which are: The Osages, situated on the river of same name, on the right bank of the Missouri, at about eighty leagues from its confluence with it; they consist of one thousand warriors, who live in two settlements at no great distance from each other; they are of a gigantic stature and well proportioned; are enemies of the whites and of all other Indian nations, and commit depredations from the Illinois to the Arkansas. The trade of this nation is said to be under an exclusive grant. They are a cruel and ferocious race, and are hated and feared by all the other Indians. The confluence of the Osage river with the Missouri is about eighty leagues from the Mississippi.

Sixty leagues higher up the Missouri, and on the same bank, is the river Kansas, and on it the nation of the same name, but at about seventy or eighty leagues from its mouth. It consists of about two hundred and fifty warriors, who are as fierce and cruel as the Osages, and often molest and ill-treat those who go to trade among them.

Sixty leagues above the river Kansas, and at about two hundred from the mouth of the Missouri, still on the right bank, is the *rivière Platte*, or Shallow river, remarkable for its quicksands and bad navigation; and near its confluence with the Missouri dwells the nation of Octolactos, commonly called Otos, consisting of about two hundred warriors, among whom are twenty-five or thirty of the nation of Missouri, who took refuge among them about twenty-five years since.

Forty leagues up the river Platte you come to the nation of the Panjs, composed of about seven hundred warriors in four neighboring villages; they hunt but little, and are ill provided with fire-arms; they often make war on the Spaniards in the neighborhood of Santa Fé, from which they are not far distant.

At three hundred leagues from the Mississippi, and one hundred from the river Platte, on the same bank, are situated the villages of the Mahas. They consisted, in 1799, of five hundred warriors, but are said to have been almost cut off last year by the smallpox.

At fifty leagues above the Mahas, and on the left bank of the Missouri, dwell the Poncas, to the number of two hundred and fifty warriors, possessing, in common with the Mahas, their language, ferocity, and vices. Their trade has never been of much value, and those engaged in it are exposed to pillage and ill treatment.

At the distance of four hundred and fifty leagues from the Mississippi, and on the right bank of the Missouri, dwell the Aricaras, to the number of seven hundred warriors; and sixty leagues above them, the Mandane nation, consisting of about seven hundred warriors likewise. These two last nations are well disposed to the whites, but have been the victims of the Sioux or Nadowessies, who, being themselves well provided with fire-arms, have taken advantage of the defenceless situation of the others, and have on all occasions murdered them without mercy.

No discoveries on the Missouri, beyond the Mandane nation, have been accurately detailed, though the traders have been informed that many large navigable rivers discharge their waters into it far above it, and that there are many numerous nations settled thereon.

The Sioux, or Nadowessies, who frequent the country between the north bank of the Missouri and Mississippi, are a great impediment to trade and navigation. They endeavor to prevent all communication with the nations dwelling high up the Missouri, to deprive them of ammunition and arms, and thus keep them subservient to themselves. In the winter they are chiefly on the banks of the Missouri, and massacre all who fall into their hands.

There are a number of nations at a distance from the banks of the Missouri, to the north and south, concerning whom but little information has been received. Returning to the Mississippi, and ascending it from the Missouri, about seventy-five leagues above the mouth of the latter, the river Moingona, or *rivière de Moine*, enters the Mississippi on the west side, and on it are situated the Ayoas, a nation originally from the Missouri, speaking the language of the Otatachas; it consisted of two hundred warriors before the smallpox lately raged among them.

The Sacs and Renards dwell on the Mississippi, about three hundred leagues above St. Louis, and frequently trade with it; they live together, and consist of five hundred warriors; their chief trade is with Michilimakinac, and they have always been peaceable and friendly.

The other nations on the Mississippi, higher up, are but little known to us. The nations of the Missouri, though cruel, treacherous, and insolent, may doubtless be kept in order by the United States, if proper regulations are adopted with respect to them.

It is said that no treaties have been entered into by Spain with the Indian nations westward of the Mississippi, and that its treaties with the Creeks, Choctaws, &c. are in effect superseded by our treaty with that Power of the 27th October, 1795.

OF LANDS AND TITLES.

The lands are held in some instances by grants from the crown, but mostly from the colonial Government. Perhaps not one quarter part of the lands granted in Louisiana are held by complete titles; and, of the remainder, a considerable part depend upon a written permission of a commandant. Not a small proportion is held by occupancy, with a simple verbal permission of the officer last mentioned. This practice has always been countenanced by the Spanish Government, in order that poor men, when they found themselves a little at ease, might, at their own conveniency, apply for and obtain complete titles. In the mean time, such imperfect rights were suffered by the Government to descend by inheritance, and even to be transferred by private contract. When requisite, they have been seized by judicial authority, and sold for the payment of debts.

Until within a few years, the Governor of Upper Louisiana was authorized to make surveys of any extent. In the exercise of this discretionary power, some abuses were committed, and a few small monopolies were created. About three years ago he was restricted in this branch of his duty, since which he has been only authorized to make surveys to emigrants in the following manner: two hundred acres for each man and wife, fifty acres for each child, and twenty acres for each slave. Hence the quantity of land allowed to settlers depended on the number in each family; and for this quantity of land they paid no more than the expense of survey. These surveys were necessary to entitle the settlers to grants; and the Governor, and after him the Intendant at New Orleans, was alone authorized to execute grants, on the receipt of the surveys from the settlers. The administration of the land office is at present under the care of the Intendant of the province.

There are no feudal rights nor noblesse.

It is impossible to ascertain the quantity of lands granted, without calling on the claimants to exhibit their titles; the registry being incomplete, and the maps made by the different surveyors general having been burnt in the fires at New Orleans, of 1788 and 1794, no estimate has been obtained.

All the lands on both sides of the Mississippi, from the distance of sixteen leagues below New Orleans to Baton Rouge, are granted to the depth of forty acres, or near half a league, which is the usual depth of all grants. Some have double and triple grants; that is to say, they have twice or thrice forty acres in depth; and others have grants extending from the Mississippi to the sea or the lakes behind them. In other parts of the country, the people, being generally settled on the banks of creeks or rivers, have a front of from six to forty acres, and the grant almost invariably expresses a depth of forty acres. All the lands ungranted, on the island of New Orleans or on the opposite bank of the Mississippi, are sunken, inundated, and at present unfit for cultivation; but may in part be reclaimed at a future day, by efforts of the rich and enterprising.

CULTIVATION OF SUGAR.

The sugar-cane may be cultivated between the river Iberville and the city, on both sides of the river, and as far back as the swamps. Below the city, however, the lands decline so rapidly, that, beyond fifteen miles, the soil is not well adapted to it. Above the Iberville the cane would be affected by the cold, and its produce would therefore be uncertain. Within these limits, the best planters admit that one-quarter of the cultivated lands of any considerable plantation may be planted in cane, one-quarter left in pasture, and the remaining half employed for provisions, &c. and a reserve for a change of crops. One Parisian arpent, of one hundred and eighty feet square, may be expected to produce, on an average, twelve hundredweight of sugar and fifty gallons of rum.

From the above data, admitting that both sides of the river are planted for ninety miles in extent and about three-fourths of a mile in depth, it will result that the annual product may amount, in round numbers, to twenty-five thousand hogsheads of sugar, with twelve thousand puncheons of rum. Enterprising young planters say that one-third, or even one-half, of the arable land might be planted in cane. It may also be remarked, that a regular supply of provisions from above, at a moderate price, would enable the planter to give his attention to a greater body of land cultivated with cane. The whole of these lands, as may be supposed, are granted; but in the Attakapas country there is undoubtedly a portion, parallel to the sea-coast, fit for the culture of the sugar-cane. There vacant lands are to be found, but the proportion is at present unknown.

In the above remarks, the lands at Terre aux Bœuf, on the Fourche, bayou St. Jean, and other inlets of the Mississippi south of the latitude supposed to divide those which are fit from those which are unfit for the cultivation of the cane, have been entirely kept out of view. Including these, and taking one-third instead of one-fourth of the lands fit for sugar, the produce of the whole would be fifty thousand instead of twenty-five thousand hogsheads of sugar.

The following quantities of sugar, brown, clayed, and refined, have been imported into the United States from Louisiana and the Floridas, viz: In 1799, 773,542 pounds; in 1800, 1,560,865 pounds; in 1801, 967,619 pounds; in 1802, 1,576,933 pounds.

OF THE LAWS.

When the country was first ceded to Spain, she preserved many of the French regulations; but, by almost imperceptible degrees, they have disappeared; and at present the province is governed entirely by the laws of Spain and the ordinances formed expressly for the colony. Various ordinances promulgated by General O'Reilly, its first Governor under Spain, as well as some other laws, are translated and annexed in the Appendix, No. 1.

COURTS OF JUSTICE.

The Governor's court has a civil and military jurisdiction throughout the province; that of the Lieutenant Governor has the same extent in civil cases only.

There are two Alcaldes, whose jurisdiction, civil and criminal, extends through the city of New Orleans and five leagues around it, where the parties have no *fuero militar*, or military privilege; those who have, can transfer their causes to the Governor.

The tribunal of the Intendant has cognizance of admiralty and fiscal causes, and such suits as are brought for the recovery of money in the King's name, or against him.

The tribunal of the Alcalde Provincial has cognizance of criminal causes, where offences are committed in the country, or when the criminal takes refuge there, and in other specified cases.

The ecclesiastical tribunal has jurisdiction in all matters respecting the church.

The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Alcaldes, Intendant, Provincial Alcalde, and the Provisor in ecclesiastical causes, are, respectively, sole judges. All sentences affecting the life of the culprit, except those of the Alcalde Provincial, must be ratified by the superior tribunal, or Captain General, according to the nature of the cause, before they are carried into execution. The Governor has not the power of pardoning criminals. An auditor and an assessor, who are doctors of law, are appointed to give counsel to those judges; but for some time past there has been no assessor. If the judges do not consult those officers, or do not follow their opinions, they make themselves responsible for their decisions.

The commandants of districts have also a species of judicial power. They hear and determine all pecuniary causes not exceeding the value of one hundred dollars. When the suit is for a larger sum, they commence the process, collect the proofs, and remit the whole to the Governor, to be decided by the proper tribunal. They can inflict no corporeal punishment except upon slaves, but they have the power of arresting and imprisoning when they think it necessary; advice of which, and their reasons, must be transmitted to the Governor.

Small suits are determined in a summary way, by hearing both parties, *viva voce*; but, in suits of greater magnitude, the proceedings are carried on by petition and reply, replication and rejoinder, reiterated until the auditor thinks they have nothing new to say. Then all the proofs either party chooses to adduce are taken before the keeper of the records of the court, who is always a notary public.

The parties have now an opportunity of making their remarks upon the evidence, by way of petition, and of bringing forward opposing proofs. When the auditor considers the cause as mature, he issues his decree, which receives its binding force from the Governor's signature, where the cause depends before him.

There is an appeal to Havana, if applied for within five days after the date of the decree, in causes above a certain value. An ulterior appeal lies to the Audience, which formerly sat at St. Domingo, but which is now removed to some part of Cuba; and from thence to the Council of the Indies, in Spain.

Suits are of various durations. In pecuniary matters, the laws encourage summary proceedings. An execution may be had on a bond in four days; and, in the same space, on a note of hand, after the party acknowledged it, or after his signature is proved. Moveable property is sold, after giving nine days' warning, provided it be three times publicly cried in that interval. Landed property must be likewise cried three times, with an interval of nine days between each, and it may then be sold. All property taken in execution must be appraised, and sold for at least half of the appraisement. In pecuniary matters, the Governors decide verbally, without appeal, when the sum does not exceed one hundred dollars. The Alcaldes have the same privilege, when the amount is not above twenty dollars.

In addition to these courts, four years ago there were established four Alcaldes de Barrio, or petty magistrates; one for each of the four quarters of the city, with a view to improve its police. They hear and decide all demands not exceeding ten dollars; exercise the power of committing to prison; and in cases of robbery, riot, or assassination, they can, by calling on a notary, take cognizance of the affair; but, when this is done, they are bound to remit the proceedings to some of the other judges, and, in all cases whatever, to give them information when they have committed any person to prison.

Most of the suits are on personal contracts, rights to dower, inheritances, and titles to land. Those arising from personal quarrels are generally decided in a summary way. The inhabitants are said not to be litigious.

LAWYERS, AND COSTS OF THE COURTS, AND THEIR OFFICERS.

The number of lawyers is small, not exceeding three or four attorneys. Their fees are small. Suits are carried on in writings, called *escritos*, which may be drawn up by the parties themselves, if they please, but they must be presented by the *escribano*, or notary, who is the keeper of the records of the court.

The fees of the judges are twenty-five cents for every half signature or flourish, (which is usually affixed on common occasions;) fifty cents for every whole signature; and two dollars and three-fourths for every attendance, as at a sale, or the taking of evidence.

The fees of the Abogado, or person consulted by the judges on law points, are twelve and a half cents for every leaf of which the process consists, and four dollars for every point of law cited. Those of the attorney, when employed, are sixty-two and a half cents for a simple petition, or *escrito*; but, if it should be necessary to read a process in order to form his petition, and it should require much time and labor, he is compensated in proportion, besides twelve and a half cents per leaf for perusing the papers. For attendance on any business, he is allowed one dollar and fifty cents for the assistance of two and a half hours. The notary has fifty cents for each decree, or order of the judge; twenty-five cents for a notification in his office; and fifty cents for one out of it, but within the city; one dollar and seven-eighths for every attendance of two and a half hours on business, and twenty-five cents additional for every leaf of paper written by him.

A counsellor or two have sometimes resided at New Orleans, but being generally found obnoxious to the officers of the Government, they have not continued there. The counsellor values his own services, and in general exacts large sums. The attorney generally receives from the party who employs him more than is allowed by law.

CRIMES, CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE, AND PUNISHMENTS.

In cases of petty crimes, the cognizance of the proper court may be said to be final, and without appeal; and most commonly such causes are decided in a summary way. With respect to crimes of deeper dye, more solemnity is used. A person skilled in the laws is always nominated by the court to defend the accused. The trial is not public; but examinations and depositions in writing are taken privately by the auditor, at any time most convenient to himself, at which, nevertheless, the counsel of the accused is admitted to be present. He has also every kind of privilege granted to him in making his defence. Such suits are generally very tedious and expensive, when he is wealthy. The condemned is entitled to an appeal, as in civil cases, provided he gives security for the payment of the future costs. There appears, however, to be a virtual appeal in every capital condemnation, because a stay of execution takes place until the confirmation of the sentence returns from St. Jago de Cuba, where there is a grand tribunal established consisting of five judges, before whom counsellors plead, as in our courts.

Crimes of great atrocity are very rare. Murder, by stabbing, seems to be confined to the Spanish soldiers and sailors. The terror of the magistrate's power restrains assaults, batteries, riots, &c.

Punishments are generally mild. They mostly consist of imprisonment and payment of costs; sometimes the stocks. White men, not military, are rarely, perhaps never, degraded by whipping, and in no case do any fines go into the public treasury. Murder, arson, and aggravated robbery of the King's treasury or effects, are punished

with death. Robbery of private persons, to any amount, is never punished with death, but by restitution, imprisonment, and sometimes enormous costs. Crimes against the King's revenue, such as contraband trade, are punished with hard labor for life, or a term of years, on board the galleys, in the mines, or on the public works.

LEARNING.

There are no colleges, and but one public school, which is at New Orleans. The masters of this are paid by the King. They teach the Spanish language only. There are a few private schools for children. Not more than half of the inhabitants are supposed to be able to read and write; of whom not more than two hundred, perhaps, are able to do it well. In general, the learning of the inhabitants does not extend beyond those two arts, though they seem to be endowed with a good natural genius, and an uncommon facility of learning whatever they undertake.

THE CHURCH.

The clergy consists of a bishop, who does not reside in the province, and whose salary, of four thousand dollars, is charged on the revenue of certain bishoprics in Mexico and Cuba; two canons, having each a salary of six hundred dollars; and twenty-five curates, five for the city of New Orleans, and twenty for as many country parishes, who receive each from three hundred and sixty to four hundred and eighty dollars a year. Those salaries, except that of the bishop, together with an allowance for sacristans and chapel expenses, are paid by the treasury at New Orleans, and amount annually to thirteen thousand dollars.

There is also at that place a convent of Ursulines, to which is attached about a thousand acres of land, rented out into three plantations. The nuns are now in number not more than ten or twelve, and are all French. There were formerly about the same number of Spanish ladies belonging to the order; but they retired to Havana during the period when it was expected that the province would be transferred to France. The remaining nuns receive young ladies as boarders, and instruct them in reading, writing, and needle-work.

They have always acted with great propriety, and are generally respected and beloved throughout the province. With the assistance of an annual allowance of six hundred dollars from the treasury, they always support and educate twelve female orphans.

OF THE OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT.

The officers, who are merely judicial, have been already mentioned, and therefore some of them will be altogether omitted in this place. The executive officers, appointed by the Governor, for each division of the province, and called Commandants, are generally taken from the army, or the militia. When the settlement is small, some respectable character is appointed to the civil command, and the militia officer has the direction of military matters. Where there is a garrison, the commandant is sub-delegate of the Intendant, and draws upon him for all expenses incurred. In that case he has the charge of all matters relating to the revenue, within his district.

The duty of commandants is to superintend the police, preserve the peace of the district, examine the passports of travellers, and to suffer no strangers to settle within the limits of their command, without regular leave obtained from Government. They are to prevent smuggling; to certify that all lands, petitioned for by the inhabitants, are vacant before they are granted; and, when required, to put the owner in possession. They are besides notaries public; and in their offices it is necessary to register all sales of lands and slaves, and even to make the contracts for those purposes before them. They act as sheriffs, levy executions on property, attend and certify the sale, and collect the proceeds. They also take inventories of the property of intestates. By an ordinance of Baron Carondelet, syndics are established every three leagues, who are subordinate to the commandant, decide small causes, and have the police of roads, levies, travellers, and negroes.

The officers of the General Government are the following: Besides his judicial powers, the GOVERNOR is chief of the army and militia, and the head of the civil Government. He is also President of the Cabildo, or Provincial Council. He appoints and removes, at pleasure, the commandants of districts. He appoints the officers of the militia, who are, nevertheless, commissioned by the King, and he recommends military officers for preferment. He is superintendent of Indian affairs. He promulgates ordinances for the good government and improvement of the province, but he has no power to assess taxes upon the inhabitants without their consent. Until the year 1798, he possessed the sole power of granting lands; but it then passed into the hands of the Intendant.

The CABILDO is an hereditary council of twelve, chosen originally from the most wealthy and respectable families. The Governor presides over their meetings. Their office is very honorable, but it is acquired by purchase. They have a right to represent, and even to remonstrate to the Governor, in respect to the interior government of the province. The police of the city is under their control and direction. In it they regulate the admission of physicians and surgeons to practise. Two members of the Cabildo serve by turn monthly, and take upon themselves the immediate superintendence of markets, bakers, streets, bridges, and the general police of the city. This council distributes among its members several important offices, such as Alguazil Mayor, or High Sheriff, Alcalde Provincial, Procureur General, &c. The last mentioned is a very important charge. The person who holds it is not merely the King's attorney, but an officer peculiar to the civil law. He does not always prosecute; but, after conviction, he indicates the punishment annexed by law to the crime, and which may be, and is mitigated by the court. Like the chancellor in the English system, he is the curator and protector of orphans, &c.; and, finally, he is the expounder of the law, the defender of the privileges belonging to the town, province, or colony, and the accuser of every public officer that infringes them. The Cabildo is also vested with a species of judicial authority, for which, and for a further elucidation of its constitution, and the functions of the officers springing from it, see the appendix No. 1.

The INTENDANT is chief of the departments of finance and commerce, and exercises the judicial powers already mentioned. He is entirely independent of the Governor, and no public moneys can be issued without his express order. The land office is under his direction.

The Contador, Treasurer, and Interventor, are officers subordinate to the Intendant. The first has four clerks under him, and keeps all accounts and documents respecting the receipt and expenditure of the revenue; and is, therefore, a check upon the Intendant. The treasurer is properly no more than a cashier, and is allowed one clerk. The interventor superintends all public purchases and bargains. The administrador is also subordinate to the Intendant, and, with a number of inferior officers, manages every thing respecting the custom-house. Every clerk in these offices receives his commission from the King.

The AUDITOR is the King's counsel, who is to furnish the Governor with legal advice in all cases of judicial proceedings, whether civil or military.

The ASSESSOR's functions are similar to those of the auditor, and are properly applicable to the Intendant's department.

Both of the officers last mentioned are also the counsellors of some of the other tribunals, as before intimated.

A SECRETARY of the Government, and another of the Intendancy.

A SURVEYOR GENERAL.

A HARBORMASTER.

A STOREKEEPER, who takes charge of all public moveable property.

An INTERPRETER of the French and Spanish languages, and a number of other inferior officers.

All appointments in the province, with a salary of more than thirty dollars per month, are made by the King; and most of those with a lower salary, by the Governor or Intendant, as belongs to their respective departments. There are no officers chosen by the people.

The salaries and perquisites of the principal officers are as follows:

Governor, annually,	-	-	-	6,000 salary,	2,000 perquisites.
Intendant,	-	-	-	4,000	none.
Auditor,	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
Contador,	-	-	-	2,000	none.
Assessor,	-	-	-	1,200	1,000
Treasurer,	-	-	-	1,200	none.
Administrador,	-	-	-	1,200	none.
Secretary of Government,	-	-	-	600	2,000

The commandants of districts receive each one hundred dollars from the King annually, unless they are possessed of a military employment or pension.

TAXES AND DUTIES.

Instead of paying local taxes, each inhabitant is bound to make and repair roads, bridges, and embankments through his own land.

A duty of six per cent. is payable at the custom house on the transfer of shipping. It is ascertained upon the sum the buyer and seller declare to be the real consideration. As no oath is required from either, they seldom report more than half the price.

The following taxes are also payable in the province:

Two per cent. on legacies and inheritances, coming from collaterals, and exceeding two thousand dollars.

Four per cent. on legacies, given to persons who are not relatives of the testator.

A tax on civil employments, the salaries of which exceed three hundred dollars annually, called *media annata*, amounting to half of the first year's salary. By certain officers it is to be paid in two annual instalments, and by others in four. The first person appointed to a newly created office pays nothing, but the tax is levied on all who succeed him.

Seven dollars is deducted from the sum of twenty, paid as pilotage by every vessel entering or leaving the Mississippi; but the treasury provides the boats, and pays the salary of the pilots and sailors employed at the Balise. The remainder of the twenty dollars is thus distributed: to the head pilot four dollars, to the pilot who is in the vessel four dollars, and five dollars to the crew of the row-boat that goes out to put the pilot on board, or take him ashore.

A tax of forty dollars per annum for licenses to sell liquors.

A tax on certain places when sold, such as those of regidor, notary, attorney, &c.

But the principal tax is that of six per cent. levied on all imports and exports, according to a low tariff. The proceeds of which nett about one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, whilst all the other taxes are said not to yield more than five or six thousand dollars annually.

EXPENSES AND DEBT.

The expenses of the present Government, comprehending the pay and support of the regiment of Louisiana, part of a battalion of the regiment of Mexico, a company of dragoons, and one of artillery, which form the garrison of the country, including Mobile, the repairs of public buildings and fortifications, the maintenance of a few galleys to convey troops and stores throughout the province, Indian presents, and salaries of officers, clergy, and persons employed for public purposes, amount to about six hundred and fifty thousand dollars. A sum, in specie, which does not generally exceed four hundred thousand dollars, is annually sent from Vera Cruz; but this, together with the amount of duties and taxes collected in the province, leaves usually a deficiency of one hundred or one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for which certificates are issued to the persons who may have furnished supplies, or to officers and workmen for their salaries. Hence a debt has accumulated, which, it is said, amounts at present to about four hundred and fifty thousand dollars. It bears no interest, and is now depreciated thirty per cent. The latter circumstance has taken place not from want of confidence in the eventual payment of the certificates, but from the uncertainty of the time when, and the want and general value of specie. The whole of this debt is said to be due to the inhabitants, and to American residents. It would have been long since paid off, but for a diversion of the funds, destined for that purpose, to different and external objects.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The productions of Louisiana are, sugar, cotton, indigo, rice, furs and peltry, lumber, tar, pitch, lead, flour, horses and cattle. Population alone is wanting to multiply them to an astonishing degree. The soil is fertile, the climate salubrious, and the means of communication between most parts of the province certain, and by water.

The following has been received as a sketch of the present exports of Louisiana, viz:

20,000 bales of cotton, of three cwt. each, at twenty cents per pound,	-	\$1,344,000, increasing.
45,000 casks of sugar, ten cwt. each, at six cents per pound,	-	302,400, increasing.
800 casks of molasses, one hundred gallons each,	-	32,000, increasing.
Indigo,	-	100,000, diminish'g rapidly.
Peltry,	-	200,000
Lumber,	-	80,000
Lead, corn, horses, and cattle, uncertain.	-	
All other articles, suppose,	-	100,000
		<u>\$2,158,000</u>

According to official returns in the Treasury of the United States, there were imported into our territory from Louisiana and the Floridas merchandise to the following amounts, in the several years prefixed:

In 1799 to the value of	-	-	-	-	-	\$507,132
In 1800 to the value of	-	-	-	-	-	904,322
In 1801 to the value of	-	-	-	-	-	956,635
In 1802 to the value of	-	-	-	-	-	1,006,214

According to the same authority, which makes the total of the exports to amount to two million one hundred and fifty-eight thousand dollars, the imports, in merchandise, plantation utensils, slaves, &c. amount to two and a half millions; the difference being made up by the money introduced by the Government to pay the expenses of governing and protecting the colony.

According to the returns in the Treasury of the United States, exports have been made to Louisiana and the Floridas to the following amount, in the years prefixed:

In 1799 to the value of	-	-	-	-	-	\$3,056,268 in foreign articles.
In 1799 to the value of	-	-	-	-	-	447,824 in domestic articles.
						<u>\$3,504,092</u>
In 1800,	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,795,127 in foreign articles.
In 1800,	-	-	-	-	-	240,662 in domestic articles.
						<u>\$2,035,789</u>
In 1801,	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,770,794 in foreign articles.
In 1801,	-	-	-	-	-	137,204 in domestic articles.
						<u>\$1,907,998</u>
In 1802,	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,054,600 in foreign articles.
In 1802,	-	-	-	-	-	170,110 in domestic articles.
						<u>\$1,224,710</u>

It is to be observed, that if the total of the imports and exports into and from these provinces, (of which the two Floridas are but a very unimportant part, with respect to both,) be as above supposed, viz:

Imports,	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,500,000
Exports,	-	-	-	-	-	2,158,000
						<u>\$4,658,000</u>

Making, together,

The duty of six per cent. ought alone to produce the gross sum of two hundred and seventy-nine thousand four hundred and eighty dollars; and that the difference between that sum and its actual nett produce arises partly from the imperfect tariff by which the value of merchandise is ascertained, but principally from the smuggling, which is openly countenanced by most of the revenue officers.

MANUFACTURERS.

There are but few domestic manufactures. The Acadians manufacture a little cotton into quilts and cottonades; and in the remote parts of the province the poorer planters spin and weave some negro cloths of cotton and wool mixed. There is one machine for spinning cotton in the parish of Iberville, and another in the Opelousas, but they do little or nothing. In the city, besides the trades which are absolutely necessary, there is a considerable manufacture of cordage, and some small ones of shot and hair powder. There are likewise in, and within a few leagues of the town, twelve distilleries for making taffia, which are said to distil annually a very considerable quantity; and one sugar refinery, said to make about two hundred thousand pounds of loaf sugar.

NAVIGATION EMPLOYED IN THE TRADE OF THE PROVINCE.

In the year 1802, there entered the Mississippi two hundred and sixty-eight vessels of all descriptions, eighteen of which were public armed vessels, and the remainder merchantmen, as follows, viz:

	American.	Spanish.	French.
Ships, -	48	14	
Brigs, -	63	17	1
Polacres,	-	4	
Schooners,	50	61	
Sloops,	9	1	
	<u>170</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>1</u>

Of the number of American vessels, twenty-three ships, twenty-five brigs, nineteen schooners, and five sloops came in ballast, the remainder were wholly or in part laden.

Five Spanish ships and seven schooners came in ballast. The united tonnage of all the shipping that entered the river, exclusive of the public armed vessels, was thirty-three thousand seven hundred and twenty-five register tons.

In the same year there sailed from the Mississippi two hundred and sixty-five sail, viz:

				American.	Tons.	Spanish.	Tons.
Ships,	-	-	-	40*	8,972	18	3,714
Brigs,	-	-	-	58	7,546	22*	1,944
Schooners,	-	-	-	52	4,346	58	3,747
Sloops,	-	-	-	8	519	3*	108
Polacres,	-	-	-	-	-	3*	240
				158	21,383	104	9,753

		French.	Tons.			Total.	Tons.
Schooners,	-	3	105	Americans,	-	158	21,383
				Spanish,	-	104	9,753
				French,	-	3	105
				Grand total,	-	265 sail,	31,241

The tonnage of the vessels which went away in ballast, and that of the public armed ships, are not included in the foregoing account; these latter carried away masts, yards, spars, pitch, tar, &c., at least one thousand tons.

In the first six months of the present year, there entered the Mississippi one hundred and seventy-three sail, of all nations, four of which were public armed vessels, viz: two French and two Spanish, whose tonnage is not enumerated.

				American.	Tons.	Spanish.	Tons.	French.	Tons.
Ships,	-	-	-	23	5,396	14	3,080	5	1,002
Brigs,	-	-	-	44	5,701	20	2,173	8	878
Polacres,	-	-	-	-	-	3	480	2	436
Schooners,	-	-	-	22	1,899	18	1,187	7	488
Sloops,	-	-	-	4	278	3	167	-	-
				93	13,264	58	7,087	22	2,804

				Total of ships.		Total of tons.	
American,	-	-	-	93	-	13,264	-
Spanish,	-	-	-	58	-	7,087	-
French,	-	-	-	22	-	2,804	-
				Grand total,	173	23,155	

In the same six months there sailed from the Mississippi one hundred and fifty-six vessels, viz:

				American.	Spanish.	French.
Ships,	-	-	-	21	18	2
Brigs,	-	-	-	28	31	1
Polacres,	-	-	-	-	4	-
Schooners,	-	-	-	17	26	5
Sloops,	-	-	-	2	1	-
				68	80	8

COASTING TRADE.

There is a considerable coasting trade from Pensacola, Mobile, and the creeks and rivers falling into, and in the neighborhood of, Lake Pontchartrain, from whence New Orleans is principally supplied with ship timber, charcoal, lime, pitch, and tar, and partly with cattle; and the places before named are supplied with articles of foreign growth and produce in the same way from Orleans. The vessels employed are sloops and schooners, some of which are but half-decked, from eight to fifty tons; five hundred of which, including their repeated voyages, and thirteen galleys and gunboats, entered the bayou St. Jean last year. There is likewise a small coasting trade between the Attakapas and Opelousas, and New Orleans, by way of the Balise, which would much increase if there was any encouragement given by Government, to clear away a few obstructions, chiefly caused by fallen timber, in the small rivers and creeks leading to them.

* One in ballast.