

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

OF

TEXAS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED, AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

INDIAN TRIBES.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

In preparing this small volume on the *TOPOGRAPHY OF TEXAS*, I have endeavored to present the country to the reader precisely as it is at the present time. But I am aware that our rapidly increasing population produces important changes at the end of every month; and a section of country that is wild and uninhabited may, at the end of two or three months, be filled with a dense population. Under these circumstances, entire correctness cannot be expected; but the description of the soil and surface of the earth, is believed to be nearly correct. I design publishing an enlarged edition in the course of next winter or spring, connected with a correct map of the Republic, when I hope to be able to present a volume more worthy of the beautiful country it describes.

City of Austin, April, 1840.

LIST OF PROPER NAMES.

CIBOLO, Buffalo.

SACO, Bag.

BEXAR, the name of a small town in Spain.

PUENTE DE LA PIEDRA, Rock Bridge.

TORDILLO, Greyish.

ATASCOSO, Mirey or Boggy.

LA PARITA, the Grape Vine.

CHICAN, Little.

HONDA, Deep.

ARROYO SECO, Dry creek.

CAÑON DE UGALDE, Pass or Defile of Ugalde,
(a Mexican general.

RIO FRIO, Cold river.

LEONA, Lioness.

LEON the Lion.

PRESIDIO DE RIO GRANDE, Military Post of

NUECES, Walnuts or Pecans. (Grand river.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Body of Christ.

MUSTANG, }
MESTEÑA, } Wild horses, cattle or mules.

LAGUNE DE LA MADRE, Lake of the Mother.

AGUA DULCE, Fresh water.

AGUA FRIO, Cold water.

LA BACA, the Berry, } The sounds of *b* and *v* are

LA VACA, the Cow, } so similar that they are
(often confounded in orthography.

NAVIDAD, Nativity or Christmas day.

- ESPIRITU SANTO, the Holy Spirit.
 RIO BLANCO, White river.
 PIEDRAS, Rocks.
 VERDE, Green.
 CEDRO, Cedar.
 REFUGIO, Place of Refuge, Retreat or Asylum.
 GOLIAD, is an anagram of Hidalgo, a revolutionary hero of the independence of Mexico.
 ESCONDEDA, Hidden.
 LOS OLMOS, The Elms.
 LOS PINTAS, The Spotted.
 SAL COLORADO, Red Salt.
 BRAZOS SANTIAGO, Arms of St. James.
 BOCHA CHICA, the Little Mouth.
 MATAMOROS, Moor-slayer, or slayer of Moors.
 (This ought always to be written Matamoros, not *ras*.)
 SAN JUAN, St. John.
 SANTA FE, Holy Faith.
 CHIHUAHUA, Indian name, signifies a circle.
 VALLE DE FLORES, Valley of Flowers.
 SABINE, Cypress.
 CHILTIPIN, Bird Pepper.
 GALVESTON, takes its name from Col. Galvez.
 BRAZOS DE DIOS, Arms of God.
 YEGUA, a Mare.
 TENOXITLAN, the ancient Indian name for
 BOSQUE, a Forest. (Mexico.)
 MATAGORDA. Thick-set Brush, Shrub or Copse.
 RIO COLORADO, Red river.
 PIEDERNALES, Flints.

TEXAS.

TEXAS is bounded on the east by the Sabine river, and an imaginary line which leaves the Sabine at the thirty-second degree of north latitude, and runs in a due north direction to Red river, which separates it from Louisiana—on the north, by Red river till it reaches the north western corner of Fannin county, which separates it from Arkansas—thence in a northern direction until it strikes the Arkansas river—thence up the Arkansas river to a point due north of the north-western head of the Rio Grande; thence due south to the north western source of the Rio Grande, and down that river to its mouth—thence with the coast of the gulf of Mexico, in a north-western direction, to the Sabine.

It contains about one million and two hundred thousand square miles, embracing nearly every variety of soil and climate—and will yield in great abundance, all the products of the temperate zone, and many of the tropical productions.

In 1836, when it separated from Mexico, it contained but about twenty-five thousand inhabitants—it now contains, as near as can be ascertained, two hundred and fifty thousand.

To a person unacquainted with the facts, there can be no conception formed of the emigration to the country—more than fifty thousand emigrants have landed at Galveston within the last year, and nearly an equal number have crossed the Sabine, who have come into the country by land. Cities are growing up, in places which a few years ago, were only inhabited by the wild beasts, and wilder savages, and civilization and refinement are rapidly taking possession of the wilderness and bringing it under the dominion of man.

My object in writing this work, is to present to the world, a faithful description of the situation of Texas at the present time—to give a plain and unvarnished tale of the whole truth, and to present to the emigrant a faithful delineation of the advantages and disadvantages of settling in the new republic. I shall first give a topographical description of the whole country, and conclude by giving such sketches of its political history as will enable every individual to understand the present condition and future prospects of Texas.

SABINE BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

SABINE BAY is about forty miles from north to south, and about twenty or twenty five from east to west. It connects with the gulf by a nar-

row inlet, and has about nine feet of water over the bar. The bottom of the bay and the bar are generally composed of soft mud, so that vessels are in no danger of being damaged if they strike the bottom, and the harbor is very safe.

Its principal tributaries are the Sabine and Neches rivers and their branches. The land around the bay is low and nearly destitute of timber, with a few scattering live oaks and a little pine. The land is not of a very good quality, but is well adapted to grazing. Several new towns have been laid out upon this bay, which will be candidates for the rich commerce of the country tributary to it. None of them have yet reached a sufficient importance to merit a particular description in this work.

The Sabine river is the boundary between Texas and Louisiana, as far as the thirty-second degree of north latitude; it then enters the territory of the Republic, and a line running due north to Red river, completes the eastern boundary of Texas.

Steam boats have ascended the Sabine river, a distance of between three and four hundred miles, and I have no doubt it will prove navigable a much greater distance. The land upon this river for the first two hundred miles from the mouth is generally of an inferior quality except the bottoms upon the river and its tributaries. These are sometimes extensive, and very rich. The upland is generally covered with a lofty growth of pine interspersed occasionally with prairie. The pine is of a fine quality,

and a rich trade in lumber, tar, pitch, and turpentine may be carried on from this river. The bottoms are well adapted to the cultivation of corn, cotton, sugar, &c. and the uplands for grazing and the raising of stock.

The principal tributaries from the west for the first two hundred miles are Bevil, Adams, Cypress, and Big and Little Cow creeks. The land varies but little upon any of them—the bottoms, like those of the river, are rich, but the uplands are of an inferior quality. The country is generally well watered, and healthy.

Princeton, Sabine, and Belgrade, are three small towns on the east bank of Sabine river, in Jasper county—they are places of very little importance.

About two hundred miles from the coast, near Gaines' ferry, we come to that section of country known as the Red Lands. This is a deep red soil, occasioned by the red oxide of iron; the soil is rich and susceptible of a high state of cultivation, and portions of it are much the thickest settled parts of the Republic. The Red Lands extend from the Sabine near Gaines' ferry, to the Trinity, near the old San Antonio crossing, and up those rivers nearly to their source; embracing a section of country more than a hundred miles square. The land is rich, well timbered, and well watered, and adapted to all the purposes of agriculture. San Augustine, Nacogdoches, and several other flourishing towns are situated in this section of country. The principal branches of the Sabine above Gaines' ferry, are Patron;

Tenaha, and Cherokee creeks. The land on all these streams is rich and well timbered, affording some of the finest situations in eastern Texas. Iron ore and salt springs are found in many parts of the country. The Sabine will, in all probability, be navigable for small steam boats, during the winter season one hundred miles above Gaines' ferry. The Cherokees, and other bands of Indians from the United States have had until lately, possession of some parts of this interesting country—but have been driven out, and the whole country is now open for the settlement of the white man.

A law was however passed at the last session of Congress, requiring the President to have all of that portion of the country lately occupied by the Cherokee Indians, surveyed in six hundred and forty acre tracts, and sold for the use of the government, after the manner in which lands are disposed of in the United States. No appropriation was made for carrying out the object of the law; this will probably retard the settlement of this interesting portion of the country for two or three years. A great proportion of this section of the country had been located previous to the passage of the law reserving it for public use; and if the law is not repealed at the next session of Congress, the whole Cherokee Reserve will become the arena of endless litigation.

The Neches is a large river which empties into the Sabine bay, about eighteen miles west of the mouth of the Sabine river. Like the Sabine, it enters the bay, through a low prairie country. The

entrance over the bar at the mouth of the river from the bay is about five feet. The river above that for sixty five miles is a deep and still channel. Beaumont is the first town above the mouth of the river, situated on the western bank. Sloops and schooners of small draft frequently ascend to this place. The country between this town and the bay is generally prairie, with occasional groves of pine and some live oak. The land is not of a very good quality.

Charles creek is a deep still stream of seventy-five miles in length, which enters the Neches from the west, about thirty-five miles from the bay. The land upon this creek is of a very good quality, agreeably interspersed with timber and prairie. The stream has been navigated with small boats a distance of thirty miles.

Big Sandy creek is a stream of thirty-five miles in length, which enters the Neches from the west about twenty miles above Beaumont. The land generally on this creek is of a very good quality, but towards the head of it, it extends into the pine barrens. This creek forms a portion of the northern boundary of Liberty county.

Alabama, or Village creek is the next stream which enters the Neches from the west. It is about one hundred and twenty-five miles in length—has its source near the Alabama village, from which it derives its name. It is a broad, still stream, navigable for seventy-five or eighty miles. The lands upon this creek are not good, except the bottoms, some of which are very fine. The uplands upon this creek are generally a pine bar-

ren, only valuable for their timber. The pine of this part of the country is the long leaf yellow pine, and equal to any in the world. The rivers afford great facilities for rafting; and the lumber trade from this section of the country must, in a few years, be an object of considerable importance.

The town of Beaumont is situated on the west bank of the Neches, a few miles below the mouth of Charles creek. It is a flourishing town of three hundred inhabitants.

Near the mouth of Village creek commences that celebrated tract of land known as Bevil's settlement. It is about thirty miles from north to south, and twenty from east to west. It is not surpassed by any land in the world. It is surrounded on every side by pine barrens, and appears like a bright spot in the desert. It is covered by a lofty growth of magnolia, oak, ash, hickory, and some short leaf pine, with a thick undergrowth of cane. It has an abundant supply of good spring water and pure running streams in every portion of it.

The town of Jasper, the county seat of the county of that name, is situated about five miles east of the Neches, in this tract. It is a flourishing village, containing two hundred and fifty inhabitants.

The town of Zavala is also situated in this tract, on the west bank of the Neches river, near the mouth of the Angeline; it is in a very flourishing condition, and contains two hundred inhabitants.

The Angeline is a stream of one hundred and

seventy miles in length, which enters the Neches from the east; it has its source in the lands lately occupied by the Cherokees. This stream, with a little improvement, would be navigable for small boats during the winter season, nearly to the town of Nacogdoches. The bottom lands of this river possess great fertility, but the uplands of the lower portion of the stream are composed of pine barrens.

The small streams running into this river afford fine mill seats, and a considerable business in lumber is carried on between this section of country and the coast.

The town of Nacogdoches is situated on Nana creek, a branch of this river. The situation is healthy and pleasant. It is an old Spanish town, having been laid off more than one hundred years ago. It once enjoyed a large commerce with the Indians, and had a population of near five thousand inhabitants; but during the Mexican revolution it dwindled to a mere village. It is the seat of justice of Nacogdoches county, and since the separation of Texas from Mexico, it has been rapidly improving.

The Ayish bayou is a stream of seventy-five miles in length, which enters the Angeline from the east, about eighteen miles from its junction with the Neches. With a very slight improvement, it would be navigable for small boats, during the winter season, for forty miles. The bottoms on this river are very extensive, and of an excellent quality; and the uplands, to within a few miles of the mouth, are very good.

The town of San Augustine, near the head of this bayou, is the most flourishing town in eastern Texas; and the fourth, in point of population, in the Republic. It is the county seat of San Augustine county, and contains one thousand inhabitants. It has been built up within the last few years, and is improving with great rapidity. There is a weekly newspaper published in this city.

The Attoyac is a river of sixty miles in length, which has its source in the Red Lands, near the old Cherokee village. The bottoms on this stream are extensive and fertile, and the uplands of a good quality. It enters the Angeline from the west, about sixteen miles from its junction with the Ayish bayou, and is navigable for small boats, during the winter season for a short distance.

Pine creek is a branch of the Neches which enters it from the west, thirty-five miles above Zavala. It is about forty-five miles in length. The bottoms upon it are narrow, and the uplands poor.

Sixty miles above the mouth of Pine creek, San Pedro bayou enters the Neches from the west, near the old Natchitoches and San Antonio road. The Neches river will be navigable, during the winter season, nearly to this place. The land on San Pedro bayou is fertile and well timbered.

The Neches, thirty-five miles above this, divides into a number of small streams, all of which afford an abundant supply of fine land and good timber.

The salt springs near the sources of this river are sufficient to supply all eastern Texas with salt. There are now but few settlements about the heads of this river, the Angeline, and Sabine; but since the Indians have been driven out, the country will no doubt settle with great rapidity, so soon as it can be brought into market. It is entirely a timbered country, and consequently, preferred by many to the extensive prairies of the west.

The Red lands about San Augustine and Nacogdoches contain the thickest settlements in Texas, and corn and cotton are extensively cultivated.

The country watered by these two rivers and their branches, is larger in extent than the state of Louisiana, and much superior in point of soil; it is a fine agricultural and stock raising country, and the streams afford ample facilities for carrying the produce to market. The lumber trade in the pine regions may be carried on to any extent, as every portion of the country is supplied with good mill seats.

A large town must necessarily grow up on Sabine bay, and I am of the opinion that the City of Sabine is the best location. All that portion of the country about San Augustine and Nacogdoches, which have heretofore received their goods up Red river, will shortly receive them from Sabine bay, and thence up the Sabine or Neches rivers; and their rich agricultural products will be sent down in return. The City of Sabine cannot fail to be a place of great importance.

Taylor's bayou is a small stream which enters the Sabine bay from the west, a few miles above the City of Sabine. It is about forty-five miles in length, and a canal of four miles in length would unite it to a branch of East bay, which is an arm of Galveston bay.

RED RIVER.

RED RIVER, for more than three hundred miles, forms the northern boundary of Texas.—The ridge of land which separates it from the Sabine and Neches, is generally poor, and covered with a heavy growth of long leaf pine; but the bottoms on Red river, and very extensive tracts of uplands, are equal to the best in Texas. Red River and Fannin counties are situated upon this river—these counties are tolerably thickly settled; the land is good and particularly adapted to the cultivation of cotton and corn and the raising of stock.

Lake Soda is a body of water of twenty miles in length, by eight in width. It is surrounded on every side by a rich body of land. It is in the disputed territory, and we do not yet know whether it is in the United States or Texas. Steam boats pass from Red river into this lake. Caddo river is a branch of lake Soda; it is about forty miles in length, and navigable for steam boats a short distance. The land upon it is good.

Cypress bayou is a branch of Caddo river,

about thirty-five miles in length, which enters it from the north-west. It contains extensive bottoms of rich land, but is not navigable.

The Sulphur Fork is a considerable branch of Red river, which enters it from the south. It is navigable for steam boats for sixty miles, through a rich body of land, well watered, with good timber.

Bois d'arc is a branch of Red river, from the south, which separates Red River and Fannin counties; the land upon it is rich, well timbered and well watered, but the stream is not navigable. A considerable proportion of Fannin county is prairie.

Sixty miles from the mouth of Bois d'arc river, we come to the Cross Timbers. This is a belt of heavy timbered land, about twenty miles in width, running through the prairies in a direction nearly north and south. It extends a considerable distance north of Red river, and terminates on the south, upon the Colorado river, about eighty miles above the City of Austin. The land is very rich, and the timber large and tall.

Big and Little Washita are branches of Red river, which enter it about sixty miles above the Cross timbers. This country is all rich, but destitute of timber, except on the margin of streams. About forty miles west of the mouth of the Big Washita, the boundary of Texas crosses Red river, and runs north to the Arkansas river. This portion of the country is so little known, that I shall not attempt to describe it. It has been represented by the few travellers who have

visited it, as being rich and fertile, but very destitute of timber and water. Towards the head of Red river, it spreads out into innumerable branches, and extends itself over a large tract of country of uncommon fertility and beauty. This country is now in the possession of the Comanche Indians.

GALVESTON BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

FROM the Sabine inlet to Galveston inlet is fifty-five miles, by the coast. The direction of the coast from Sabine to Galveston inlet is west ten degrees south. Galveston bay is sixty miles from north to south, and twenty-five miles from east to west. It has a general depth of from fifteen to twenty feet water. About twenty miles above Galveston island, it is obstructed by the Red Fish bar, which runs across the whole bay, over which there is but six feet water.

Galveston island is situated at the mouth of this bay. The island is thirty-five miles long and three and a half broad, and runs parallel with the coast, from which it is separated by a sound, about three miles wide, and from four to eight feet deep. The island is entirely destitute of timber, but has a rich soil, and is well supplied with game—deer in great abundance, and in the win-

ter, every species of wild fowl. Fish and oysters are particularly fine, about the island, and very abundant.

Galveston City, situated at the east end of Galveston island, was laid out but two years and a half ago, and did not commence improving until within the last eighteen months. It now contains a population of three thousand five hundred souls, and is increasing with great rapidity. It has three fine steam packets which perform regular trips between that place and New Orleans, and it is not uncommon to see from thirty to forty vessels, from different parts of the world, lying in the harbor. The principal channel has twelve feet water over the bar, and the harbor is safe and commodious. This place is destined at no distant period, to become a large and important city. It is the county seat of Galveston county, and contains a semi-weekly and a tri-weekly newspaper. It enjoys more commerce than all of the other ports of Texas.

Pelican island is about three miles north of Galveston island, in the bay: it has about six hundred acres of land. It is low and destitute of timber.

East bay is a branch of Galveston bay, formed by East bayou. East bayou is about thirty-five miles long, and has its source near the Sabine bay. It passes through a low prairie country, almost destitute of timber, except occasionally, small groves of live oak. East bay is separated from the gulf by point Bolivar, a narrow neck of land, twelve miles long, and from two to six

in width. A town has been laid off upon this point, called Bolivar, but no improvements have yet been made.

Double bayou is a small stream that enters into Galveston bay from the east, three miles above Red Fish bar. It is about fifteen miles in length, and runs through a rich body of land. The timber is post oak, live oak, and magnolia, but a large proportion of the country is prairie.

Anahuac was a Mexican fortified town, situated on the head of the bay, near the mouth of the Trinity river. It is finely situated for the commerce of the Trinity, and must become a place of some importance. It was deserted during the Texian revolution, and has not done much in the way of improvement since. But when the country on the Trinity shall become settled, it must be the outlet of a rich and extensive commerce. It has been found by actual experience that steam boats, suitable for the navigation of rivers, are not suited, when heavily laden, for the navigation of large bays. A large town must necessarily grow up near the mouth of the Trinity, and Anahuac is the only situation which the country will afford. This town, and indeed all the towns upon the waters of Galveston bay, must be tributary to Galveston City, which will greatly increase its importance and commerce.

Turtle bayou is a stream of about forty miles in length, running through a rich body of land, which is well timbered, with cypress, oak, ash, pine, and magnolia, and many other varieties,

and enters the bay near Anahuac. It is navigable.

The Trinity river is the largest tributary of Galveston bay. By the meanderings of the river it is more than six hundred miles in length, and has been navigated by steam boats two hundred and fifty miles, and it will be navigated, in all probability, much farther. For eighty miles above its mouth, it runs through a low prairie country, but has wide and heavily timbered bottoms.

Old river, which enters the Trinity three miles from its mouth, from the west, is thirty-five miles in length. It is a broad deep channel, and navigable nearly to its source for steam boats. It is believed to have once formed the bed of Trinity river. It runs through a low marshy country, with heavily timbered bottoms. The land is rich and well adapted to the cultivation of sugar, cotton, or corn, and affords an unbounded range for cattle.

Sixty miles from the bay, on the east side of the river, stands the town of Liberty. It is the seat of justice of Liberty county, and has about one hundred inhabitants. It is surrounded by a rich and pleasant country. The country between this town and the mouth of the river, and for thirty miles above, is generally low prairie—with occasional spots of timber. The land is generally rich—the bottoms wide and well timbered.

Franklin is a small town upon the east bank of the Trinity river, about thirty-five miles above Liberty. It is a place of very little importance.

Cooshatta, or Kettle creek, enters the Trinity river eighty miles above Liberty, from the east side. This creek is about thirty-five miles in length; has its source in the pine woods, and affords no good land except the bottoms, which are not extensive. From the mouth of this creek to the old San Antonio road, on the east side of the river, the country presents nothing but a long leaf pine barren, which extends nearly to the Neches river. The bottoms, however, are generally wide and rich, presenting a dense undergrowth of cane. The Cooshatta Indians now reside in this section of the country.

Milton and Kickapoo creeks are two small streams, which enter the river from the east, in this section of the country. They differ in soil but little from Cooshatta creek.

Between the mouths of these two creeks, on the east bank of the Trinity river, is the new town of Swartwout. It is situated in a healthy and beautiful country, upon a high bluff, and contains many advantages as a commercial point. It is rapidly improving.

Geneva, situated on the west bank of the river, is a new town, just laid out, which will be a candidate for a portion of the commerce of the rich valley of the Trinity.

On the west side of the river, the country differs materially from that on the east. Immediately above Liberty on the west side commences a beautiful rolling country, agreeably interspersed with woodland and prairie, which extends to the San Jacinto river. Oak, Cooshatta, and Bid-

ias creeks are three small streams which enter the Trinity from the west. They all afford an abundance of good land and plenty of timber. The timber is mostly pine, oak, hickory, black jack, and some other kinds. This country affords fine springs and plenty of running streams. It is generally a good body of land, and well watered.

At the mouth of Bidias creek stands the town of Carolina, on the west bank of the Trinity river. It is a new place, *or rather, has a new name.* It is pleasantly situated, and has a great variety of mineral water, white and red sulphur, calibeate, &c. From this circumstance, it had received the name of *Bath*, and had been known on the maps by that designation for many years; but was, in very bad taste, changed by the proprietors, to "*Carolina.*" I dislike to see a sacrilegious hand laid upon ancient names.

Bear creek is another small stream which empties into the Trinity from the west, eight miles above Carolina. The land upon the creek, and between it and the old San Antonio crossing, differs but little from the last described.

At the crossing of the old San Antonio road, on the west side, is the town of Cincinnati. It is a flourishing little village, and surrounded by a fine body of excellent land. Steam boats have frequently ascended to this point, but it is not believed to be the head of navigation.

Above this road the lands on both sides of the Trinity are rich, well timbered, and well watered to its source. This river flows through the country lately occupied by the Cherokees and

their associate bands which has heretofore prevented its settlement; but now they have been driven out, the natural wealth and advantages of that country must command a speedy settlement, if not prevented by legislative enactments. It is nearly all a heavy timbered country, with but an occasional small prairie. The timber is white and red oak, black jack, hickory, Bois d'arc, and occasionally, short leaf pine. The country abounds in fine springs and running streams of fresh water. Several fine *salt springs* have been discovered, from which the Indians have been in the habit of manufacturing considerable quantities of salt.

A good quality of stone coal is found in several places, within steam boat navigation on the Trinity, and might be floated down in any quantity.

Hurricane and Bois d'Arc creeks are the principal tributaries from the east; and Rich Land creek and the West Fork from the west. The land upon all these streams, differs but little from that on the Trinity river.

Crockett is a flourishing inland village on the head waters of Hurricane creek. It is the seat of justice of Houston county, and contains about one hundred and fifty inhabitants.

Eighty miles above Cincinnati the prairie again commences. It is rich, rolling, and beautifully interspersed with groves of timber; this kind of country extends to the *Cross Timbers*.

The settlements on Red river approach to within eighty five miles of those on the Trinity. They will unquestionably soon be united.

A great proportion of this country is composed of a rich red soil, similar to that about San Augustine and Nacogdoches. The remainder is a rich, black mould, with a clay foundation. It will support as dense a population as any in the world.

The San Jacinto bay is a branch of Galveston bay; it is about twenty-five miles in length, and from three quarters of a mile to three miles in width. It is surrounded by rich land, and has many beautiful and romantic situations upon it.

At the mouth of the bay, at a place called Cedar point, is a salt spring, from which a considerable quantity of salt has been manufactured. Cedar creek enters the bay at this place. It is about forty-five miles in length, and is navigable for small vessels from fifteen to twenty miles. It flows through a rich prairie country, but affords an abundant supply of good timber in the bottoms.

On the south side of the bay, opposite to Cedar point, is the town of New Washington. It is a very beautiful and healthy situation.

At the head of the bay, near the junction of the San Jacinto river and Buffalo bayou, on the north side, is the town of Lynchburgh. It is a mere village, containing not more than a half dozen houses.

Immediately opposite to the town of Lynchburgh, a new town has been laid off called San Jacinto. It is a pleasant situation, but little has been done in the way of improvement.

Near this place is the battle ground of San Jacinto; where on the 21st of April, 1836, the Mex-

ican army, commanded by General Santa Anna, surrendered to the Texians, under the command of General Sam Houston.

This bay contains several beautiful islands, which, with slight improvements, might be made very desirable private residences.

The San Jacinto river enters the San Jacinto bay about a half mile above the town of Lynchburgh. This river is about one hundred miles in length. It rises in Montgomery county and flows in a south easterly direction, through a country agreeably interspersed with woodlands and prairie. It will probably be navigable for small steam boats about fifty miles. Its principal tributaries are Cypress bayou, and Spring and Lake creeks. The land upon these streams is similar to the land on the river. It is generally rich, and well adapted to the purposes of agriculture and the raising of stock. Some towns have been laid off upon the river, but none of them have made much improvement.

The population of Montgomery county is increasing with great rapidity, and it will, probably, soon be one of the most densely settled counties in the Republic.

The country upon this river is mostly well timbered. The growth is post, red, and white oak, magnolia, cypress, ash, hickory, elm, mulberry, pecan, and short leaf pine. It has in many places a thick undergrowth of cane. The prairies are generally rich, and many of them entirely covered with gama grass.

The town of Montgomery, the county seat of

Montgomery county, on a branch of this river. It is a new town, and surrounded by a rich and thickly settled country.

Buffalo bayou enters the San Jacinto bay, near the battle ground. It is about fifty-five miles in length, and navigable at all seasons of the year, for steam boats drawing six feet water, to Houston, about thirty-five miles from its junction with the San Jacinto. It rises in Austin county, and runs in nearly an eastern direction. Its principal tributaries are Green creek and White Oak bayou, from the north; and Vince's, Sims', and Bray's bayou from the south.

From the mouth of the bayou to Houston, the country is about equally divided between prairie and timber. The land is very low, and in the winter extremely muddy; in other respects the land is of a very good quality. The timber is pine, oak, ash, magnolia, hickory, mulberry, cypress, &c. Several steam mills have been located upon this stream, which furnish large quantities of lumber. Four miles above Houston the bayou extends into the extensive prairies, and has only a narrow fringe of timber upon the margin of the stream, and the bayou in the summer season becomes almost dry.

Several towns have been laid out upon it; but none of them are flourishing, except Houston, which is situated at the junction of Buffalo and White Oak bayous, and at the head of steam boat navigation. The city was laid off in 1836, and the seat of government was fixed there in the fall of the same year. It has very comfortable pub-

lic buildings, and about four thousand inhabitants. Steam boats between this place and Galveston, run almost every day, and nearly all the emigrants from the United States, who come to this country by water, land at Galveston, and pass through Houston.

During the first season, the place suffered much from sickness, but it was most probably owing to the exposed situation of the early settlers. They were thrown together from every part of the world, without houses, sleeping on the ground, with all the hardships incidental to the settlement of a new place. Since that season, the place has been comparatively healthy, until the latter part of the summer of 1839, when it suffered severely from the yellow fever.

In the session of 1838, and '39 a bill was passed removing the seat of government to Austin.—It is not believed that the removal will materially affect the prosperity of Houston. It has a weekly and daily newspaper published in the city. Houston is the county seat of Harris county.

Harrisburg, situated at the junction of Buffalo and Bray's bayous, is a pleasant place, containing about twelve or fourteen houses. It was a place of some importance previous to the revolution, but was burnt down by the Mexicans a few days preceding the battle of San Jacinto, and has never been rebuilt.

Immediately opposite, on the north side of the bayou, is the town of Hamilton. It has but little in the way of improvement but a name.

Clear creek is a stream of about twenty miles.

in length, emptying into the west side of Galveston bay, about six miles above Red Fish bar. It heads in the prairie, and has very little timber upon it. The country through which it flows is low and level, but of a tolerably good quality.

Dicks creek is another small stream which enters Galveston bay a short distance below Red Fish bar; the country bordering upon it is very similar to that on Clear creek.

San Leon, Austinia, Powhattan, and Virginia, are four towns which have been laid off upon the western shore of Galveston bay, but have made but little progress in improvement. They are all fine situations, and may, when the country becomes more thickly settled, become places of some importance.

Moses, Highland, and Hall's creeks are three small streams which enter Galveston bay from the west. They run through a rich prairie country,—the land bordering upon them is rich, and affords many beautiful situations for private residences.

Chocolate bayou is a stream about thirty-five miles in length which heads in the prairie near the southern boundary of Harris county, and runs into Galveston bay, near the west end of Galveston island. Nearly the whole of this bayou runs through a prairie country—but towards its mouth it has a great quantity of live oak. This oak is large, and of an excellent quality for ship building. Between Galveston bay and the Brazos are great quantities of wild game; and on this bayou, buffaloes are found in considerable abun-

dance. Deer, in flocks of from twenty-five to fifty, may, at almost any time, be seen feeding on the prairies; and in the winter, no country can surpass it for wild fowl, swan, geese, brant, ducks, &c. Turkeys and grouse (called in this country the prairie hen) may be found at all seasons in great abundance. Fish of the best quality, are so abundant in the rivers and the bay, that they may be taken without any trouble, and no place on earth can surpass it for oysters and other varieties of shell fish. The country is healthy, and the land rich, and its only fault is being too level. The sea breeze is constant and refreshing, and would render the hottest weather pleasant and delightful.

Liverpool is a small town about twenty-five miles from the coast upon this bayou. It is in a healthy and pleasant situation, but, owing to the sparseness of the settlements around it, has not made great advances in improvement. The bayou is navigable up to this point.

New bayou is a branch of Chocolate bayou, and differs but little from it in appearance.

SAN LUIS HARBOR.

SAN LUIS is a safe and commodious harbor near the west end of Galveston island, and twelve miles east of the mouth of the Brazos

river. It is formed by San Luis island, and a neck of the main land which effectually protects it in any weather. It is connected with Galveston bay by a shallow sound of from four and a half to six feet water. This harbor is unquestionably the best upon the coast of Texas, and perhaps superior to any on the Gulf. It has been accurately examined by officers appointed by the government for that purpose, and individuals; none of them report less than thirteen and a half feet water in low tide. The harbor is perfectly safe—the channel wide and straight, and easy of entrance—and vessels drawing ten feet water may approach to within six feet of the shore, either on San Luis island, or the main land.

This harbor is admirably calculated for a navy yard. The country around it, and for many miles up the Brazos river, and Oyster creek, is more plentifully supplied, with a better quality of live oak, than any portions of the Republic.—The supply appears to be inexhaustible, and I have no doubt will be an object of a considerable commerce.

The island, and the main land adjacent to it, including the harbor, has been purchased by an enterprising company, and a town has been laid off called San Luis, which bids fair to be rapidly built up. They propose connecting it with the Brazos river by a rail road or canal fourteen miles long:—the stock has been taken and a large proportion of the money paid in. This will insure to it the trade of the Brazos river, and most of the country between that stream

and the Colorado. This is (at present) the principal cotton region in Texas; and all that has heretofore prevented a large town from springing up at the mouth of the Brazos has been the want of a good harbor. It has long been looked upon as one of the pleasantest and healthiest points in Texas; and now that so important a harbor has been discovered near the mouth of the Brazos river, it cannot fail to ensure its rapid improvement.—The principal part of the cotton raised in the southern part of the Republic, will, in all probability, be shipped from this point.

Bastrop creek is a small stream which enters San Luis harbor. Fleus and Austin bayous are branches of this creek. The land upon all of them is very rich, and covered with live oak timber. The country is pleasant and healthy; capable of supporting a very dense population.

Oyster creek is a stream of seventy-five miles in length which enters the gulf seven miles west of San Luis harbor. It has its source near the Brazos, in Fort Bend county, and runs parallel with that stream. The land upon it is of the best quality, and the banks covered with a lofty growth of timber, with a thick undergrowth of cane. Towards the lower part of the stream the timber is mostly live oak.

BRAZOS RIVER AND ITS BRANCHES.

FROM the Galveston inlet to the mouth of the Brazos river, it is forty miles by the coast. The coast runs west, forty degrees south.

The Brazos de Dios, usually called the Brazos river, rises in the Guadalupe or Padre Pinta mountains, in about latitude thirty-two degrees north, and the one hundred and second degree of west longitude from Greenwich. For one hundred miles it flows in nearly a north eastern direction, when it changes to the south east, which is its general course till it reaches the gulf. It is, by the course of the river, more than one thousand miles in length, and has its whole course through a body of fertile land. In low water the river is frequently brackish nearly to the mouth, owing to one of its branches running through a large salt lake. The red water which colors the whole river, comes from the north eastern fork, which rises in a body of red lands, near the Red river. Above the mouth of that river the water is as clear and transparent as that of the Colorado, and other western streams.

The river enters the gulf without forming any bay, and has but from five and a half to six feet water over the bar. The anchorage is very good out side, and the harbor safe and commodious within.

Velasco is situated at the mouth of the river on the east, and Quintana on the west side. They are pleasantly situated, in a healthy and delightful climate, and have generally escaped the fevers, which have proved so fatal in some of the other towns upon the coast. They have, however, improved very little since the revolution, and are now more celebrated as summer resorts, than for their business.

There is a female academy at Velasco, which is in high repute. The place is celebrated for its good society and the hospitality of its inhabitants.

About twenty-five miles above Velasco, on the west side of the river, is the town of Brazoria. It is one of the oldest American towns in the Republic, having been settled soon after the arrival of the first colonists under Austin, in 1822. It is the seat of justice of Brazoria county and contains about three hundred and fifty inhabitants. There is a newspaper printed at this place.

The lands bordering upon the river from Velasco to Brazoria are of the best quality, and the timbered bottoms extend from the Oyster creek, on the east, to the San Bernard, on the west, with the exception of a small prairie about the mouth of the river, and along the coast, called Gulf prairie.

Marion is a small town on the west bank of the Brazos, ten miles above Brazoria. It is a place of considerable business.

Columbia is situated at the edge of the timber-

ed bottom, two miles west of Marion. It is a pleasant and agreeable situation, but not in a very flourishing condition. The first session of the constitutional congress was held at this place; but the seat of government was soon after removed to Houston, and the place has not improved any since.

The country between Marion and Brazoria is very similar to that below Brazoria. The same heavily timbered bottoms continue upon both sides of the river. But on the west side, a few miles above Marion, the prairie approaches nearer the river—and about eight miles above, the prairie extends to the bank of the river; but the same deep and heavily timbered bottom continues upon the eastern side.

A very singular peculiarity of the bottoms upon the Brazos river is, that on the east side they extend near four hundred miles from the mouth; while, on the west, the prairie or timbered uplands approach nearly to the water's edge, with some few exceptions.

The country appears to be all sloping to the south east. Streams that rise within a few miles of the Colorado empty into the Brazos; and the tributaries of the San Jacinto and Buffalo bayou rise within a few miles of the Brazos.

The supply of live oak in this section of the country is almost unbounded, and any quantity of it might be rafted down the river to the mouth. The live oak is of a better quality than that found in almost any other country, and it is beginning to be an object of considerable commerce.

Orozimbo on the west, and Bolivar on the east are situated on the river at the crossing of the Houston and Columbia road. They are at the head of tide water and probably at the head of permanent navigation, but owing to some unknown cause, they have not made much advances in improvement. Orozimbo is beautifully situated, surrounded by a high, beautifully undulating prairie country. With good roads to the up country, and some capital, it could not fail to be a place of considerable importance.

From Orozimbo it is fourteen miles to Monticello, which is situated on the west bank of the river, just below the mouth of Crow creek; it is not a place of much importance.

Crow creek is a stream of twenty miles in length which enters the Brazos river from the West. It forms a portion of the northern boundary of Brazoria county, and separates it from Fort Bend county.

Big creek is another small stream which enters into the Brazos from the west in Fort Bend county.

Richmond is a town upon the west bank of the Brazos, twenty miles above Monticello. It is situated in a large bend of the river. It is on a high prairie bluff immediately on the river, and is one of the healthiest and most pleasantly situated places upon the Brazos. It is in the midst of a rich, thickly settled country, and bids fair to be a place of considerable commerce. Steam boats, during the winter season, can ascend to this place, and with very little improvement, the river

might be made navigable at all seasons of the year to this place. It is the seat of justice of Fort Bend county—has a newspaper published in the town, and about two hundred and fifty inhabitants. This town has very good roads leading from it to the up country, and, from the improvements which have been made since its settlement, only two years and a half ago, it bids fair to be a place of considerable importance.

From Richmond to San Felipe, it is about forty-five miles. The lands upon both sides of the river continue good.

Marsh creek is a stream of about fourteen miles in length, which enters the Brazos river from the east, about four miles below San Felipe. The land upon it is very rich and contains an abundant supply of good timber—ash, oak, cotton-wood, &c. and a thick undergrowth of cane. Hogs and cattle may be raised in this country at so trifling an expense, that it scarcely costs the planter any thing to support his hands, and more cotton may be raised, any where upon the lower Brazos, besides cultivating a large crop of corn, than can be saved by the hands who raised it.

San Felipe is situated on the west side of the Brazos river, at the crossing of the main road leading from Houston to the City of Austin. It is agreeably situated upon a high bluff, and in a very excellent position to command a large proportion of the up country trade. It was the first town settled by General Stephen F. Austin, and was looked upon as the capital of the new colony. Previous to our revolution, it was in a

very flourishing condition, but was burnt down to prevent its falling into the hands of the Mexicans, and has not since been rebuilt. It contains about two hundred inhabitants.

Mill creek is a stream of about forty-five miles in length, which enters the Brazos river from the west, about four miles above San Felipe. It runs through a rich and beautifully undulating country—agreeably interspersed with woodland and prairie. The bottoms are extensive, rich and well timbered; and the uplands of the first quality. The west branch enters the main creek about twelve miles from its mouth. The country through which it runs is similar to that upon Mill creek. There is a large and respectable German settlement upon this creek. They have made many good improvements, and are living extremely well.

Fish-Pond creek is a small stream of twenty miles in length, which enters the Brazos from the east, twenty miles above San Felipe. The land upon it is rich and well timbered. It heads in Montgomery county, and enters the Brazos a few miles below the line of Austin county.

Clear creek is another stream which enters the river from the east, four miles from the mouth of Fish-Pond creek. It is about twelve miles long, and runs through a rich body of land. It heads in the prairie, but the lower part of it is well timbered.

Caney creek enters the Brazos from the west, between the mouths of Fish-Pond and Clear creeks. It is about twenty-five miles in length,

and runs through a rich body of land. It forms a part of the northern boundry of Austin county, and separates it from Washington.

New-Year's creek is a stream of about thirty-five miles in length, which enters the Brazos river from the west, about sixteen miles below the town of Washington. It rises near the centre of Washington county, in a beautiful rolling country, composed of about equal portions of prairie and timber. The land on every part of New-Year's creek is rich, well watered, and has a good supply of timber. It is a fine farming and stock raising country, and contains some of the most delightful situations in Texas. The country bordering upon this creek is almost as thickly settled as any portion of the Republic, and has very good society.

Ten-Mile creek is a small stream of sixteen miles in length, which enters the Brazos from the east, ten miles below Washington. It heads in the post oak woods, north of the Houston road, in Montgomery county, and runs in nearly a western direction, till it reaches the river. It runs through almost entirely a timbered country—the land is rich, with the exception of a small tract about the head of it.

Bowman's creek is a small stream that enters the river from the east, a few miles below Washington. It heads in the prairie and runs south east to the river. The land upon it is rich—the country through which it passes pleasant and healthy—and there is a sufficient quantity of timber upon it for all the purposes of agriculture.

Washington is situated upon the west bank of the Brazos river, immediately opposite to the mouth of the Navosota. The old La Bahia road crosses the river at this place; also the road from Houston to the upper Brazos, &c. It is pleasantly situated on a high gravelly bluff, and is surrounded by a rich, beautiful, well watered and healthy country. It is the seat of justice of Washington county and contains about five hundred inhabitants. It is almost two hundred miles from the mouth of the river by water. Previous to the revolution a steam boat ascended to within ten miles of this place, and was prevented from ascending further on account of the Mexican army's having appeared on the river below. It is believed that with very slight improvements, the river would be navigable during the winter season to this place. But the place is more celebrated for its good society and the hospitality of its inhabitants than for their enterprise; and the natural advantages which it possesses, have been neglected, and they have received all their goods through Houston, thus aiding to build up a rival town at the expense of their own prosperity. Instead of wagoning their own goods from Houston, they should have had a steam boat on the river, and supplied the whole up country. This would have added ten fold to the wealth and prosperity of the place. There is a newspaper published in the town, which, I hope, will call the attention of the people to this subject.

The convention, which declared our independence and adopted the constitution, assembled at

this place, and it was once thought that it would be the permanent location of the seat of government of 'Texas. The Brazos river forms the eastern boundary of the county of Washington from the mouth of Caney creek to this place, and separates it from Montgomery.

About sixteen miles east of Washington, in Montgomery county, there is a white sulphur spring, which has become a place of considerable resort. The country around it is pleasant and healthy—and with suitable accommodations it would unquestionably become a place of fashionable resort during the summer season.

The Navosota river is a stream which enters the Brazos from the west, opposite the town of Washington. It rises in the Cross Timbers and runs in a southern direction nearly parallel with the Brazos river, till it unites with that stream. It is about one hundred and sixty miles in length. The water is clear and wholesome, and, when it unites, forms a striking contrast to the red waters of the Brazos. It receives no very considerable tributaries, and, for its length, is a very small stream. It is not navigable. Nearly its whole course is through a prairie country, but has very extensive timbered bottoms upon the river. The prairies also contain extensive groves of timber, which will afford a sufficient quantity for fuel, building, and all the purposes of agriculture. A few miles above the old San Antonio road, in Robertson county, there is an extensive bed of stone coal upon this river. From its mouth to the old San Antonio road, it forms a portion of

the eastern boundary of Washington county. Steal's, Rocky, Cedar, and Hood's creeks are small tributaries of this stream.

The Yagua river enters the Brazos from the west, about ten miles above Washington. It is formed by the first, second, and third Yagua, and Davidson's creek. The source of the third Yagua is within fourteen miles of the Colorado river, near Bastrop; and that of Davidson's creek, within eight miles of the Brazos. They spread over an extent of country about fifty miles square; most of which is well timbered, well watered, and very fertile. It has occasionally small prairies, but is generally a timbered country. The country upon this creek has very few settlements except towards its mouth.

Independence is a small town, situated about three miles south of this stream, and about the same distance west of the Brazos. It is in a neighborhood known by the name of Coles' settlement. This is one of the most pleasant and delightful portions of the Republic. The families are generally wealthy, respectable, and hospitable, and no stranger can visit that portion of Texas without being pleased, not only with the country, but the inhabitants. At Independence there is a female institution of considerable reputation.

The Little Brazos is a stream of one hundred miles in length, which enters the Brazos river from the east, at the crossing of the old San Antonio road. This road forms the north western boundary of Washington county, which sepa-

rates it from Milam and Robertson counties. The Little Brazos rises in the prairie country, about fifteen miles north east of the falls of the Brazos, and runs in a south western direction, until it reaches the heavy timbered bottoms of that river. It then runs parallel with that stream for about seventy-five miles,—the distance between them varying from three to six miles.—The rich heavy timbered bottoms extend from one river to the other; but on the east side of the Little Brazos the prairie and timbered uplands approach to the margin of the stream; affording delightful situations for settlements: while the bottoms afford an abundant supply of good timber and an unbounded range for cattle and hogs; which can be raised with so much ease, and in so great an abundance, that they scarcely cause the farmer a moment's trouble.

Buck, Tates, Muddy, and Jone's creeks, are four small streams which enter the Little Brazos from the east. The country watered by those creeks is rich, healthy and about equally divided between timber and prairie.

Franklin, the county seat of Robertson county, is near Tates creek. It was established in 1838, and for an interior place, has made considerable improvement. This county is settling up with great rapidity.

Tenoxtitlan was an old Mexican fortification a few miles above the old San Antonio road, on the west side of the Brazos river. There are now but four or five families living at the place.—There is a gentleman living ten miles west of

Tenoxtitlan who has been cultivating wheat for several years with considerable success. With proper cultivation, I have no doubt that the whole country, above the San Antonio road, from the Sabine to the Rio Grande, would prove an excellent wheat country; and there is no doubt of an abundant production of every other kind of small grain; and the only objection to the cultivation of cotton, is the difficulty of transporting it to market. This objection will, in all probability, so soon as the country becomes settled, be remedied, either by making the rivers navigable, or the construction of rail roads. Until such times, the inhabitants will employ themselves in the cultivation of grain and the raising of stock; for which it is surpassed by no country on earth.

Nashville is situated on the west bank of the Brazos, three miles below the mouth of Little river. It stands upon a high bluff—in a beautiful undulating prairie—it has fine water and is a healthy place, and is surrounded by a rich and fertile country. It was settled previous to the revolution, but owing to the constant alarms, from Indians it has made but slight advances in improvement. But from recent arrangements which have been made for the protection of the frontier, it is hoped it will enjoy more repose. It is the seat of justice of Milam county.

The Little or San Andres river is a stream of one hundred and twenty-five miles in length, which enters the Brazos river from the west. The Sandy creek, Brushy, Clay's, Salado, Lampaces, and San Leon, are branches of this river.

The Brushy has its source near the Colorado, about ten miles from the City of Austin. The San Gabriel heads in the mountains, about thirty-five miles above the City of Austin, which separates the valley of the Brazos from the Colorado, and about eight miles from the Colorado river. Clay's, Salado, and Lampaces are branches of the San Leon. They, also, have their sources in the Colorado mountains. The San Leon is the longest branch of Little river.

The country watered by these streams is all of a very similar quality and appearance. It is about one hundred miles in length and fifty in breadth. The bottoms on the streams are rich and beautiful—the water pure and transparent—and the uplands of the best quality. It is nearly equally divided between woodland and prairie. The prairies are covered with flowers at nearly every season of the year, and so remarkable has it been for its beauty, that it has received the name of *T'eha Lanna* or the land of beauty, from the Comanche Indians. Immense herds of buffalo, wild cattle, deer, and wild horses, are found in all parts of this section of the Republic. It has been long the most favorite hunting ground of the wild Indians, which has heretofore prevented its settlement. But several settlements have recently been commenced upon the Little river and its branches, and the wild Indian will soon have to give place to civilization. A chain of block houses are soon to be thrown across the country, and a sufficient number of troops stationed upon the frontier to pro-

fect the settlements, and it is hoped this beautiful country will soon be made the abode of civilized man.

White marble, granite, and blue and gray limestone, are found in many portions of this country. Lead and copper ore, and an abundant supply of iron are found in the mountains, about the heads of those streams.

Elm, Pond, and Davis creeks are three small streams which enter the Brazos from the west, between the mouth of Little river and the falls. They have their sources in the immense prairie which lies between the Brazos river and the branches of Little river. They become nearly dry in the summer. Their whole course is through a prairie country, which affords no timber, except a small quantity of elm and hackberry in the bottoms, and a little musquit in the prairie. The land is rich, but so destitute of timber and water that it will be some time before it will be settled.

Near the mouth of Pond creek, there is an extensive bed of stone coal, which extends across the Brazos river. It is more than a mile in length and from four to six feet in thickness. The same vein is seen in the Little Brazos and the Little river. From this point it may be floated down the Brazos with very little difficulty in high water, and boats may be loaded at the water's edge. It would unquestionably be an object to take it to the coast. It is bituminous and of a good quality.

Milam is an old Mexican fortified town, situa-

ted upon the west bank of the Brazos river at the falls. It was formerly known by the name of Viesca. It is pleasantly situated—but shortly after its settlement, it proved sickly—was abandoned, and has never been re-settled. There is, however, a settlement about six miles from the falls, on the east side of the river, at the edge of the timbered bottom, which consists of some ten or fifteen families. The settlement has suffered much annoyance from Indians; but a military post has now been established there, which it is hoped will protect the settlement. The land is rich, and though the settlement is small, corn and provisions are abundant. The weed prairies in this section of the country have been celebrated for their fertility. They are, in their natural state, covered with a growth of weeds of from eighteen to twenty-five feet in height. The ground is light and the weeds have only to be cut down and burned to fit it for cultivation. It will then produce from sixty to eighty bushels of corn to the acre.

The falls are about six feet perpendicular. Hopes have been entertained that the Brazos would be made navigable to this point, but those who are best acquainted upon the subject are of a different opinion.

Cow, Lake, and Towacany creeks are three small streams which empty into the Brazos between the falls and the old Waco village. They all head in the prairie and run partly through the prairie and partly through the post oak woods.—The land upon them is of a very good quality.

Peyton's, Fresh, Tahuacono, Bear and Aguija creeks are five small streams which enter the Brazos from the east. They all head in the prairies, but have a good supply of timber towards their mouths.

The Rio Bosqere is a beautiful clear stream which enters the Brazos from the west, just above the old Waco village. It is about seventy-five miles in length, and contains extensive bottoms of rich land. Towards the head of this stream the country is beautiful—and the land rich and well timbered. But towards the mouth of the stream it passes through an extensive prairie almost destitute of timber.

Noland's river is a stream of one hundred and fifty miles in length, which enters the Brazos from the east. It rises in the extensive prairies above the Cross Timbers, and after passing through them, enters the Brazos river a few miles below where they cross that river. The land upon it is rich—and towards the lower part of it well timbered. The water of the river is red and muddy.

The Red Fork is a river of two hundred miles in length, which enters the Brazos from the east. It has its source near the Red river, and flows in a south easterly direction until it reaches the Brazos. It rises in a timbered country, but throughout the greatest part of its course, it flows through a prairie country. The land upon this river is of a deep red color, which colors the water of the Brazos to the mouth of the river.

Palo Pinta is a river of about seventy-five

miles in length, which enters the Brazos between the mouth of Nolands river and the Red Fork. The land upon this river is rich and tolerably well timbered.

A mountain called the High Peak is situated just below the mouth of this river. It is about six hundred feet in height.

The Cross Timbers cross the Brazos near this place and pass in a south-westerly direction to the Colorado.

The Tahcajuncua is a river of about sixty miles in length, which enters the Brazos from the west. It rises in the Towacany mountains, and runs in a western direction till it unites with the Brazos. The Outijunova, Ocoque and Tacuya are its principal branches. The land upon all these streams is rich and well timbered.

The Incoque is a large branch of the Brazos which heads in the Gaudaloupe or Piedra Pinta mountains, and flows east until it unites with the Brazos. Throughout almost its entire course it flows through a prairie country; with a little timber upon the margin of the stream and an occasional grove of post oak; and some musquit scattered through the prairies.

Fifty miles above the mouth of this river is a large lake of salt water—from six to seven miles in width, and twenty-five miles in length. Several of its tributaries are also strongly impregnated with salt. Salt crystalizes at this place in great abundance, which will serve to supply the country upon the upper Brazos and Colorado when it shall become settled; and in high water may be floated down the river to the falls. The

Brazos above the falls is a still, smooth stream, and for three hundred miles above, apparently as large as it is below the falls.

The Tosohunova, Tampisarahco, and Keria-chelhunova, are the principal branches of this lake. They all rise in the mountains.

THE SAN BERNARD AND OLD CANEY.

THE San Bernard river is a stream of one hundred and thirty-five miles in length, which enters the gulf about fourteen miles south-west of the mouth of the Brazos river. It rises in Austin county, about twenty miles west of San Felipe, and runs in a south-eastern direction, until it reaches the gulf. It forms a portion of the western boundary of Brazoria, Fort Bend and Austin counties—and separates them from Matagorda and Colorado.

The West branch and Peach creek are two streams which enter the San Bernard from the west. They rise in Colorado county and enter the river in Matagorda county.

Old Caney creek is a stream of forty-five miles in length, which enters the gulf about eighteen miles from the mouth of the Bernard. It has its source in the Colorado bottom, in Matagorda county, within a few hundred yards of the Colorado river. It is thought by many to have once

formed the bed of that river; with which it could now be united with great ease. This has been thought by some to be the easiest method of removing the obstructions at the mouth of the Colorado river, but others fear that the influx of water would overflow the valuable planting land below on the creek. A company was chartered in 1838, for the purpose of improving the navigation by the lock and dam system; but nothing has been done to carry it into effect. The country through which it passes is level and the banks high, and it would be admirably calculated for this kind of navigation.

Cedar Lake creek is a succession of small lakes, which extend from the gulf in a north west direction. They are between old Caney and the San Bernard. They are surrounded on all sides with a heavy forest of cedar timber. This cedar is equal to any in the world: it is long, strait and clear of nots; and is very valuable for many purposes.

The country watered by these streams is unsurpassed in fertility and production. Towards the head of the San Bernard the country is about equally divided between timber and prairie—and the land is of an excellent quality. For sixty miles above its mouth it passes through a rich, deep alluvial soil, which, for abundant production is equal to any in the world.

The lands upon old Caney are equal, and thought by some to be superior, to the San Bernard lands. The bottom lands extend from stream to stream: there is not an acre of poor

land in all this section of country. Its growth is cedar, live oak, ash, pecan, &c., with a thick undergrowth of cane. It is now the principal cotton region in Texas, and better cotton is raised here than in any portions of the Republic. I have been informed by planters of undoubted veracity that it is not uncommon to pick four thousand pounds of seed cotton from an acre of ground. It would, unquestionably, be equally productive for sugar. It will produce from fifty to seventy bushels of corn to the acre, and stock and hogs may be raised with so little trouble, that the planter can support his hands at a mere nominal expense. It combines more advantages as a planting country than any other portion of the world.

Lands can now be purchased in this section of the country at from three to seven dollars per acre. The country is healthy, and always has a delightful breeze from the ocean, which renders the hottest weather pleasant.

MATAGORDA BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

FROM the mouth of the Brazos river to the Matagorda pass is seventy-five miles. The coast runs in a south western direction.

The Matagorda bay extends sixty-five miles

from the north east to the south west, and is from six to ten miles in width: it is separated from the gulf by a narrow peninsula, of from two to three miles in width. The entrance into the bay from the gulf has from nine to ten feet water over the bar. The bay is from eighteen to twenty-five feet deep, for thirty-five miles, at which place it is obstructed by a bar, over which there is but two feet water. This bar is four miles above Palascious, and seven below Matagorda; and vessels freighted for that port have to anchor in the bay, and transport their goods seven miles by lighters, to the city. The bar is not more than eighty yards in width, and the citizens of Matagorda have long been *talking* of opening a ship channel through the bar, which they believe could be done at a trifling expense. This would unquestionably make Matagorda one of the most important towns in the Republic, and the citizens should leave no art untried to accomplish so desirable an object. This improvement in the bay, and the removal of the raft at the mouth of the Colorado river, would give to Matagorda the commerce of the most fertile and wealthy portion of Texas; and if it can be effected, no expense should be regarded to procure so desirable a change.

Matagorda island is situated at the mouth of Matagorda inlet. It is about forty miles in length and from four to six miles in width. The island is high and pleasantly situated. A town called Calhoun has been laid off at the north east end of Matagorda island, near the pass; but it is not

believed to be a very eligible situation. No improvements have yet been made.

Cavallo island extends from near the Matagorda island to near the main land, on the west side of the bay, and separates it from Espiritu Santo bay, with which Matagorda bay is connected by two narrow passes.

This bay is surrounded generally by a prairie country, with occasional groves of timber. The timber is live oak, cedar, ash, pecan, and hackberry.

Live-Oak, Lake-Austin, and Prairie creeks are three small streams, which run into the bay from the north, on the east side of the mouth of the Colorado. They all head and have their whole course in a large prairie, which is known by the name of Bay prairie. The land of this prairie, is rich but very level, and muddy in the winter season.

Matagorda is situated upon the bay on the east side of the Colorado river. It is a healthy and delightful situation. It contains many good houses, and the place combines many of the advantages of commerce. It is in the heart of one of the best planting regions in Texas. It has a female institution of considerable reputation, and a newspaper printed in the city. It is the seat of justice of Matagorda county.

The Colorado river is the principal tributary of Matagorda bay. It rises in the Padra Pinta mountains, and runs for two hundred miles in a north eastern direction, when it changes its course to the south east. It receives many large

tributaries, and is, by the course of the river, about eight hundred miles in length. The country bordering upon this river is pleasant, fertile, and healthy, and many causes unite to make it the most desirable portion of the Republic: the lower part of it is excelled by no country on earth for planting purposes, and the upper and middle portions of it are admirably adapted to grazing and the raising of hogs and cattle. Rich mines of gold and silver exist in the mountains, and quarries of marble, granite, and lime stone may be found in many parts of it. Stone coal, and iron ore are also found in great abundance upon this river. The entrance of this river into the bay is obstructed by a raft which has prevented boats from entering it. A company has been chartered for clearing it out—the contract taken, and the stock subscribed for; and I am in hopes we shall soon see a good account of their labors.

Mason's, Jennings', and Jones' creeks are three small streams which enter the Colorado from the west, in Matagorda county. The land upon them is similar to that upon the river—a rich, deep, and alluvial soil. The country through which they pass is mostly prairie, except upon the margin of the streams.

The land upon the river, through Matagorda county, is similar to that upon old Caney and the San Bernard—equally as well adapted to the cultivation of cotton and sugar, and the raising of stock and hogs.

After reaching Colorado county, the country is equally rich and fertile—and more rolling and

better watered ; presenting agreeable changes in scenery.

Egypt is a wealthy and respectable settlement, situated at the crossing of the old San Felipe and Victoria road. Sugar has been successfully cultivated in this settlement.

Columbus is pleasantly situated, in a large bend of the river, upon the west side, about one hundred miles above Matagorda. It is known upon the maps by the name of *Montezuma*. The Colorado river, at all seasons of the year, after getting above the raft, would be navigable for large steam boats to Columbus. It is the seat of justice of Colorado county. Just above this place are the first rapids upon the river—the river has, in its lowest stage, about two feet water over the bar: the bar is composed of soft soap stone, and might be removed with very little difficulty.

Cummings creek is a stream of thirty miles in length, which rises in the post oak woods, in Fayette county, and enters the Colorado four miles above Columbus, from the east. It runs through a country about equally divided between woodland and prairie, and has rich, extensive and well timbered bottom lands. The timber is composed of post, black, red and live oak, pecan, cedar, cotton wood, elm, hackberry, &c. Upon the banks of this creek are some excellent quarries of stone. The country is thickly settled with wealthy and respectable farmers. Provisions are abundant and cheap.

Lagrange is situated on the east bank of the

Colorado river, at the crossing of the old La Bahia road. It is a pleasant and healthy situation, with good water, and surrounded by a large body of excellent land. A few families, living upon what was then the frontier, collected together at that place for safety, in 1837. This induced the proprietor to lay off a portion of his lands into town lots, and hold out inducements for their permanent residence at that place. Soon after the county of Fayette was organized, and Lagrange became the county seat; since which time the place has been rapidly improving. It now contains about five hundred inhabitants.—The obstruction to the permanent navigation of the Colorado river, might be removed at a trifling expense. In the neighborhood of the town is a large grove of pine timber, which supplies the town and neighborhood with lumber.

Rutersville is a town six miles south-east of Lagrange. The tract upon which it is built, was purchased in the spring of 1838, and a town laid off, for the purpose of erecting and endowing a college. Since that time about two hundred houses have been erected; a charter has been procured, for the institution, and it is now in successful operation. It is one of the most pleasant situations in the country, and surrounded by a rich and very abundant neighborhood. It was named after Bishop RUTER, its founder, who died shortly after he had made the purchase.

When we reflect that two years ago, upon the very ground on which the town is built, the traveller was in danger of being massacred by the

wild Indian—and that the only inhabitants in the country were half a dozen destitute families at Lagrange, who had crowded together for the purpose of defending themselves against Indian depredations, and that now the country is thickly settled and prosperous—and the Indians drierly more than one hundred and fifty miles back, and that there are flourishing towns, churches, and institutions of learning, and all the refinements of civilization, where, at that time, the savage roamed triumphant over the prairies, some idea may be formed of the rapid improvement of this country.

Buckner's creek is a stream of forty-five miles in length, which enters the Colorado from the west, immediately opposite to the town of Lagrange. It rises in Bastrop county, and flows in an eastern direction until it reaches the river. The land upon it is very rich: it has a sufficiency of timber for all the purposes of agriculture.

Just below the mouth of this creek, upon the west side of the river, is a high bluff known in the neighborhood by the name of Mount Maria. It is about five hundred feet in height, and commands a magnificent prospect. Upon the top of the hill is a spring, the water of which, in its descent, forms a beautiful cascade. At this cascade is found a great abundance of lime stone spar—the most beautiful of all mineral formations. With proper improvements this would be one of the most magnificent situations in any country.

Colorado *City* is a name which has been given

to a very beautiful and romantic prairie, on the west side of the Colorado, just above the *town* of Lagrange. It is more celebrated for the beauty and magnificence of the wild flowers which carpet the prairie, than for its improvement. It is situated in a rich and rapidly settling country.

Just above Lagrange, on the east side of the Colorado, at the distance of about four miles from the river, commences a grove of excellent yellow pine timber. This pine grove extends above Bastrop, and is generally from two to four miles in width. The land upon which it grows is gravelly and hilly; but it is surrounded on all sides by the richest kind of planting land; and situated as it is, is of great value for its timber.

Rabb's, Pin-Oak, and Eblin's creeks are three small streams which enter the Colorado, from the east, between Lagrange and Bastrop. These creeks are small; they rise in the pine woods, or post oak land adjoining it, and there is very little good land upon them, till they approach within four or five miles of the river. The bottoms of the river, between Lagrange and Bastrop, on the east side, are about four miles in width. The bottoms upon the Colorado differ very much from the bottom lands of the Brazos, or any of the eastern rivers. On those streams, they are always covered with a heavy growth of timber; but upon the Colorado, many of the richest bottoms upon the river are prairie. Those prairie bottoms are of extraordinary fertility, and always skirted with hills of timbered land, which lies a short distance back from the river. These hills

are from four to six miles in width, and in some places are tolerably fertile, but are mostly gravelly and broken. They are the dividing ridges between the Brazos and the Colorado rivers.

Cedar and Walnut creeks are two small streams which enter the Colorado from the west, between Lagrange and Bastrop. The land upon Cedar creek is mostly prairie, with the exception of the bottoms, which are narrow and generally covered with cedar. Walnut creek rises in the post oak woods, and runs in a western direction until it reaches the river. The land upon it is generally of a good quality, but some of it is broken and hilly. The hilly land is heavily timbered, with white, red and post oak, pine, cedar, &c. The bottoms are rich, but not extensive: a large portion of the country through which it passes is prairie.

Bastrop is a town which was settled previous to our revolution. It is on the eastern bank of the Colorado river, at the old San Antonio crossing. It is situated in a bottom prairie, and surrounded by hills, which are covered with evergreens, and forms a very picturesque appearance. This town has been much celebrated for the beauty of its location. It is the county seat of Bastrop county, and contains about five hundred inhabitants. The pine grove which commences near Lagrange terminates near this place. There are three steam mills at Bastrop, which furnish a large portion of the adjoining country with lumber.

Just below Bastrop, on the bank of the river,

there has been found an almost entire skeleton of some huge animal. The bones appear to be different from those of the mastadon—having been furnished with horns of ten or twelve feet in length, and of eight inches in diameter. The bones were larger than any of those found in the Mississippi valley. Some teeth were found which weighed from twelve to fifteen pounds.

Pine creek is a stream of fifteen miles in length, which enters the Colorado at the upper part of the town: It rises in the pine woods and runs south-easterly until it reaches the river. It runs through entirely a timbered country, until it approaches near the river, when it passes through a small prairie. The land upon it is of but an ordinary quality, until it reaches the prairie, when it is rich and fertile.

Near the mouth of Pine creek, in the bank of the Colorado river, two miles above Bastrop, is an extensive bed of stone coal. It is bituminous—of an excellent quality—and an unbounded quantity. It can be floated down the river to the head of the raft with great ease.

Barker's, Wilbarger's, and Walnut creeks, are three streams which enter into the Colorado from the east between Bastrop and Austin. They are generally from twelve to sixteen miles in length—they rise in the hills which skirt the eastern side of the river. These hills are generally from two to five miles distant from the river. The lands between them and the river is unsurpassed in beauty of location and fertility of soil. It is sometimes composed of timbered land, but most

generally a prairie bottom. Fine springs of crystal water are bursting from the hills, and afford the finest building situations in the world; the country is healthy and the climate mild, and it is settling with greater rapidity than any other portion of the Republic.

Onion creek is a stream of about fifty-five miles in length, which enters the Colorado from the west, ten miles below the City of Austin. It runs through a beautiful, rolling country, composed of woodland and prairie, of great fertility. About ten miles from the mouth of the creek, and ten miles in a south-western direction from the City of Austin, there is a grove of the best kind of cypress timber, of about six thousand acres. A mill erected at this place would do an extensive business in lumber. The other timber is cedar, live oak, black walnut, white, red, and post oak, hackberry, mulberry, wild peach, &c. The water of this stream sinks towards the mouth, and it is much larger twenty-five miles from the Colorado, than it is at the mouth. This is not an uncommon occurrence in streams of this section of country. Large springs frequently burst out of the ground, and after running a few miles, entirely disappear; and most of the water in the small streams sinks in the summer season. There is no settlement on Onion creek, except about its mouth.

The town of Comanche is situated upon the west bank of the Colorado river, just below the mouth of Onion creek. It is pleasantly situated, in a healthy and fertile country, but contains on-

ly about a dozen houses. The south-eastern line of the county of Travis crosses the river just below this town.

The CITY OF AUSTIN, the seat of government of the Republic of Texas, is situated upon the east side of the Colorado river, a short distance below a range of hills, known by the name of the Colorado mountains. At the session of congress of 1838—'39, a bill was passed removing the seat of government from Houston; and commissioners were appointed to select a new location. They made their report in favor of the City of Austin, in the April following. An agent was immediately appointed by the President to superintend the laying off of the city, the sale of the lots, and the erection of the public buildings. The government archives were removed to this city in the October following; and so expeditious had been the agent, in the performance of his duty, that buildings of every description necessary for the reception of the officers of government, were ready previous to that time.

The public buildings are not elegant, but very comfortable and appropriate for a new government. Among them, the President's house stands conspicuous: it is situated upon a hill, and has a very commanding prospect over almost every portion of the city, and a view of the mountains, and the beautiful and picturesque country upon the west side of the river. The temporary capitol is situated upon another hill, about three hundred yards west of the Presi-

dent's house. It is a large one story frame building, very commodious, and will answer all the purposes for which it was intended, until the government shall be able to erect a more elegant and costly building.

Congress has passed a law for the erection of a fire proof building, for the use of the general land office, and the state department. It has been contracted for, and will doubtless be finished in the course of the summer.

A large three story brick hotel has been commenced, and is to be completed by the fall of 1840. The buildings are generally of a much better description than are usually built in new countries—and the improvement of the city has progressed with a rapidity heretofore unknown, even in this country. It contains about four hundred houses and twelve hundred inhabitants. A Presbyterian church has been commenced, and I understand the Methodists have one under contract.—The city contains two newspapers.

The Colorado opposite the city, runs nearly east and west. Like the ancient city of Rome, Austin is built upon seven hills, and it is impossible to conceive of a more beautiful and lovely situation. The streets are generally composed of gravel, which effectually protects them from mud at all seasons of the year. The gravel is generally composed of silex; but agate and cornelian of the finest quality, are found in great abundance about the city. Here also are found great varieties of marine shells, oysters, conch, and almost every variety which are found upon the sea shore.

This can only be accounted for by supposing that the mountains which now raise their summits in gloomy grandeur over the prairies, were once the boundary of the ocean. Shark's teeth and other fossil remains of marine fish have frequently been picked up in the bed of the Colorado river.

In the spring and early part of the summer, the prairies are covered with a thousand varieties of wild flowers, which fill the air with fragrance, and present one of the loveliest prospects in nature.

Four miles above the city, upon the east side of the river, is a high peak, called Mount Bonnell. From the top of the mountain there is a perpendicular precipice of seven hundred feet down to the water. The prospect from the top of this mountain, is one of the grandest and loveliest in nature. On the north and west extend the mountain peaks, rising in bold magnificence hill above hill, for a distance of twenty miles. And though what are here called mountains, would in many countries be looked upon as inconsiderable hills, they form a bold contrast to the flower clad prairie, which stretches off to the south and east as far as the eye can extend. The Colorado river is seen for the distance of fifteen miles winding its course among the hills and rich valleys; below us is the infant city, which completes the prospect and renders it one of the loveliest upon earth.

The mountains contain immense quarries of gray and blue limestone, white, gray, and variegated marble, and granite and gypsum, and stone coal. They contain an inexhaustible supply of

iron ore—gold, copper, and lead have been found, but no examination into their wealth has been made. Upon the tops of the mountains are frequently large tracts of rich table lands, and the valleys are unsurpassed in fertility by any land in the world. Large springs, many of which would afford five or six hundred barrels of water a minute, are bursting out at the foot of the mountains and watering the rich valleys below. Some portions of the hills are very well timbered—others are prairie. The musquit grass* extends to the top of the hills, while the valleys are covered with wild rye. It is not surpassed by any country in the world for cattle and hogs.

Three miles above Austin are the first falls—they are mere rapids of about ten feet in one hundred yards.

There has been a great difference of opinion about the navigation of the Colorado river. Some are of opinion there will be no difficulty at all in navigating it to Austin, while others think that it can never be effected. A partial examination has been made of it, and two feet water can be had over the shallowest bar at the lowest stage of the water. Iron boats have been constructed in Europe, of two hundred tons burthen, which draw but seven inches water: it does appear that a boat of this description ought

* Musquit grass is a very fine grass, which grows very thick upon the ground, and affords the finest pasture of any grass upon earth. There is a species of locust which is called musquit timber, from its generally growing upon musquit prairies—it is harder and more durable than the black locust, but generally grows crooked and scrubby.

to navigate the Colorado with ease. Navigation is all we lack of having the most desirable situation upon the face of the earth.

The city and neighborhood are entirely healthy, and the malignant fevers which are so fatal in some parts of the coast country, are here entirely unknown.

If the Colorado river can be made navigable, the City of Austin would be the best situation upon the continent for a general depot for the trade of the northern Mexican states. And even if goods have to be transported by land to Austin, it will be but the same inconvenience which will attend every other interior town in this Republic; and the trade must be concentrated at some town at a distance from the coast. The winter, and early in the spring, is the time selected for the travelling of those extensive caravans of merchants, by which the trade of all the northern Mexican states is conducted. At that time the roads near the coast are muddy and almost impassable. And if navigation cannot be obtained, goods will have to be wagoned up from the coast during the dry season for the winter and spring trade: this town, in a direct line, is one hundred and seven miles from the nearest port on the coast, and two hundred by the river.

But the whole difficulty of transporting goods from the coast, might be easily overcome by making a manufacturing town in the neighborhood of Austin. The large springs in the hills, a few miles west of the City of Austin, afford the finest water power in the world. They have a suffi

cient supply of water for all the purposes of machinery. They are never affected by long droughts, nor heavy rains, and there would, consequently, be a constant supply of water, without any danger of the works being carried off by floods.

The climate is mild and healthy, and every thing required for the supply of the manufacturing establishments would be produced at home. Cotton can be raised here with almost as much facility as on the coast; and no country can surpass it for the growth of the mulberry, and the production of silk. There is a gentleman in the City of Austin who has already planted forty acres of the *morus multicaulis*, and is going extensively into that business. The mountains are admirably calculated for the pasturage of sheep, and as fine an article of wool can be produced here, and as cheap as in any other country.

The natural abundance of the country will supply all kinds of provisions, at a very cheap rate. Stock and hogs keep fat during the whole year without any expense from the farmer, and grain of every description will be produced in great abundance.

There is very little doubt but fruits of almost every kind may here be produced in great abundance, but the country is yet too new to have the fact demonstrated by experiment. But the mountains are covered with an excellent quality of wild plumbs, and almost every tree is loaded with grape vines, some of them equal to the best French or Italian grape.

The distance from Austin to Santa Fe is four hundred and fifty miles, over a rich, rolling, and well watered country. It is nearly a north-western direction. From Austin to the old San Saba fort, it is about one hundred and twenty-five miles. There was formerly an old Spanish road running from Gonzales to San Saba, which passes within fifteen miles of Austin. This road runs over a beautifully undulating country, with an abundant supply of water, and rich grass prairies and bottoms covered with wild rye—which would supply an abundant food for horses and mules at all seasons. The road, even at this time, is quite plain, and with very little trouble might be travelled with loaded wagons.

From the old fort there is a plain wagon road to Santa Fe, a distance of three hundred and twenty-five miles. The road crosses the Colorado river about two hundred and twenty-five miles above the City of Austin, where the stream appears as large as it does at Austin. There is a good ford, and it is rarely affected by high water. The country between the San Saba and the Colorado is one of extraordinary beauty. It is about two-thirds prairie—the rest of it timber and bottom lands, beautifully undulating, and containing running streams of pure water in every valley. Nature has designed it for a stock raising and grain growing country; and it will be more celebrated for the abundance of its productions than any portion of Kentucky or Tennessee.

After crossing the Colorado the road becomes a little more hilly, but the country is still fertile,

well watered, and contains an abundant supply of musquit and wild rye for grazing. This portion of Texas, during the summer season, contains more buffalo and other wild game than any other part; but the game usually travel to the south in the winter, in order to feed on the more luxuriant prairies.

After crossing the Brazos river the country assumes a different appearance: on the right you have the broad, rich, level prairie, which stretches off to the south-east, until the view is lost in the distance; and the dull monotony of the level plain is only relieved by the innumerable herds of buffalo, deer, antelopes, horses, and wild cattle, which are always in view in those extensive prairies: while, on the left, the Padre Pinta hills rise in bold magnificence above the plain. The road runs along near the margin of the mountain, where the streams from the hills furnish an abundant supply of water, until you reach the upper branches of the Red river, when the mountains bend suddenly to the west and stretch off towards the head of the Puerto, a branch of the Rio Grande.

Nothing can exceed the beauty and fertility of the country on the head waters of the Red river. The river is divided into innumerable branches, and spreads itself over an extent of country about eighty miles square. Through the centre of this tract passes the Santa Fē road. Following up the north-eastern branch of the Red river, you ascend the mountain which brings you into the elevated plain upon which stands

the city of Santa Fē, at the distance of about forty leagues from the summit of the mountain.

This plain is on the top of a high mountain, which (unlike the mountains of the United States, which are broken into rugged peaks and abrupt precipices,) presents a level plain of extraordinary fertility. The scene is occasionally varied, however, by an abrupt peak which rises high above the plain, and seems to have been placed there as a beacon to direct the steps of the weary traveller. This elevated table land is perhaps the best wheat country in the world; and Malte Brun says, in his geography, that the only reason Mexico does not drive every other country upon earth out of the grain market, is the difficulty of transporting it to the coast. Upon this tableland, pure fresh water lakes and running streams are found in sufficient abundance to supply a caravan of traders with water. There is no portion of the country where the distance between water will be more than fifteen miles, and loaded wagons might pass even now without difficulty; and with a very slight improvement the road would be equal to any in the world.

The Comanches are the only tribe of Indians to be encountered on the route--and a company of fifty Americans well armed might pass over any portion of the country with impunity.

Many portions of this country are rich in mineral productions, and mines may at no distant period be wrought with profit. But my object now is to speak of the trade--and I have only been

so explicit in describing the country through which the road passes, to show the feasibility of directing the trade to this country.

If goods can be landed at Philadelphia, carried over land to Pittsburgh—thence shipped in steam boats to St. Louis—and again carried over land to Santa Fē, a distance of not less than sixteen hundred miles, through almost a desert country, abounding in warlike tribes of Indians, and then afford a profit,—how much greater would be the profit to carry them from Texas, less than one third of the distance, and where none of those obstacles exist?

The trade of Santa Fē consists principally of valuable peltries, and gold and silver in bars; and to that country horses and mules, and even cattle might be driven with profit.

But it is known to all persons who have visited that country, that the trade of Santa Fē is, in itself, of comparatively little consequence, and that it derives most of its importance from the fact that it is a place of general meeting, where the Mexican traders from Chihuahua and other places, meet the traders from St. Louis, to make an exchange of their commodities. To do this they have to travel eight hundred miles, over a rough mountainous country; their merchandise having to be principally packed upon mules; where they meet the Missouri trader, who has transported his goods from St. Louis, itself an inland town, over a land carriage of sixteen hundred miles.

To realise any profit, after so expensive a trans-

portation, goods must necessarily sell extremely high. From Austin to Chihuahua it is not a much greater distance than it is to Santa Fē, and the country over which the road would pass is equally as favorable for the transportation of goods, and far more favorable than it is either between St. Louis and Santa Fē, or between Santa Fē and Chihuahua. From Austin to the Presidio de Rio Grande, is about two hundred miles. This place is on the Rio Grande, and would be a favorable place for meeting the Chihuahua trader, who would only have a distance of two hundred and fifty miles to travel to reach that point.

The great inconvenience which the Chihuahua merchants experience in carrying on the trade through Santa Fē, has induced them to seek for different channels of communication with the United States; and last summer a company of traders visited New Orleans from that city.

They set out from Chihuahua, and after travelling one thousand miles over land, reached the head of navigation on Red river, but finding no boat, they kept down the river to Shreeveport, where they embarked on board a steam boat for New Orleans.

They carried back with them three hundred thousand dollars worth of goods at prime cost, which were paid for in gold and silver. M. VELOIS, the head of the company, stated that the consumption of American goods at Chihuahua, when they could be obtained, amounted to one million and a half of dollars per annum, and that it might be increased to a much greater extent.

The goods which he took on his return consisted principally of calicoes, unbleached cottons, prints, silks, cloths, &c.

Through this Republic, is the legitimate channel of all that extensive trade. The merchant from Chihuahua, Santa Fē, or any of the northern interior Mexican cities, can reach our coast at a much less expense than they can reach any of the branches of the Mississippi, or the coast in their own country; and it is only necessary to embark a little capital in the enterprise to insure its success. No one could think of transporting goods over the immense distance from St. Louis or New Orleans to Chihuahua, when they could be procured at as cheap a rate within four or five hundred miles of home. Goods can be introduced into this country, if imported directly from Europe, and sold to the Chihuahua trader at a cheaper rate than they can be afforded at St. Louis, and the distance for transportation is not one-fourth as great. With all these natural advantages it would only require the experiment to insure the success of the enterprise. That experiment is now being made, upon a small scale, and the arrival and departure of Mexican traders, at San Antonio, is a matter of almost daily occurrence. That trade, we understand, has increased more than four fold in the last six months.—As its advantages are developed, it will continue to increase until this Republic shall monopolise the whole trade.

The English also carry on some trade with Chihuahua, over land, from the ports of the Pa-

cific. The distance is about eight hundred miles, and the goods have to be transported over the Rocky mountains. Owing to the great expense of transportation, the trade is inconsiderable, but the English are making strenuous exertions to secure a port on the Pacific, and thus obtain a portion of that valuable commerce; but there is no place on the continent which can compete with the ports of this Republic in point of facilities of intercourse and direct commerce.

After a considerable digression, I again return to the description of the beautiful valley of the Colorado.

Waller's and Shoal creeks are two small streams, which are formed by large springs, and which rise upon the city tract, and enter the Colorado river, one at the upper and one at the lower part of the City of Austin.

Spring creek is a stream of eighteen miles in length, which enters the Colorado from the west, one mile above the City of Austin. It rises in the mountains, and after running a few miles, almost disappears; but about one mile from the river, at a place called Barton's springs, it is again supplied with water, by four large springs, which supply a stream of sixty feet in width and four feet deep, and runs with a brisk current to the river. A company are about erecting a mill at this place. A portion of the land, towards the head of this creek, is broken and hilly, but of a rich quality, and well supplied with timber. It has extensive, rich and beautiful valleys, and some excellent table land upon the hills. To-

wards the mouth it runs through a country beautifully undulating, rich, and agreeably interspersed with woodland and prairie.

Four miles above Austin commences a cluster of hills known by the name of the Colorado mountains. The highest of them are not more than six or seven hundred feet in height. They generally rise gradually, and some of them have large tracts of table lands upon their summits, which are admirably calculated for the production of grain, fruit and the vine. The valleys in those hills are frequently extensive, and of extraordinary beauty and fertility. They have been represented in the papers of this country and the United States, as belonging to a chain of the Cordilleras—this is not the case. They are not more than thirty-five miles in extent, and the Cordilleras are several hundred miles distant from them. They contain extensive quarries of marble, lime stone and granite, and will for centuries supply the city of Austin and the adjoining country with timber. They abound in springs of pure crystal water, and constantly running streams. They afford the best grazing land in the world, and a sufficient quantity of the best arable land for cultivation. Those mountain springs afford the best facilities for water power, as they are neither affected by long drouths nor constant rains. They afford many of the most delightful situations for private residences to be found in any country. They never suffer from drouth: the hills attract the clouds so that they always have an abundance of rain.

Hamilton's and Cypress creeks are two streams which enter the Colorado from the east, between the City of Austin and the mouth of the Piedernalis; they are formed by springs in the hills, and have large and extensive bottoms of fertile land.

Bull creek is a stream of about ten miles in length, which enters the river from the west, four miles above Austin. It is formed by a large spring. The land upon it is similar to the land upon Hamilton's and Cypress creeks.

The Agua Frio is a stream formed by a large spring in the Valle de Flores, which enters the Colorado river from the west, twelve miles above the City of Austin. The stream runs for six hundred yards from its source through a solid block of white marble—at which place it has a fall of twenty feet, nearly perpendicular. The stream is not more than three miles in length, but contains water enough for machinery of the largest kind. The valley contains ten or twelve thousand acres of land; it is about one-third prairie and the rest heavily timbered land. It is a place of extraordinary beauty and would be a delightful place for private residences—and a fine location for a manufacturing establishment. It received the name of the Valle de Flores from the thousand varieties of wild flowers which carpet the valley.

The Piedernales river is a large stream which enters the Colorado twenty-two miles above the City of Austin, from the west; and though it is but sixty-five or seventy miles in length, it re-

receives so many of those large mountain springs, that when it unites with the Colorado, it is difficult to tell which is the largest stream. It has very deep banks, (flowing through a country almost entirely composed of elevated table land) with bottoms of not more than from one to three hundred yards in width. These bottoms are covered with a thick growth of cypress timber, and are bounded by perpendicular rocks, frequently of three hundred feet in height. The stream is gentle and smooth, and the timber may be floated down to Austin without difficulty. The river is composed almost entirely of springs, and so pure and transparent is the water that pebbles may be seen at the bottom in forty feet water. After ascending the rock from the cypress bottom, we reach a rich, level musquit prairie of great extent. It has a great quantity of musquit timber, with occasional groves of live and post oak, and considerable cedar. The country is admirably adapted to the production of stock and grain; and would produce cotton and sugar, but the difficulty of transporting it to market would render it unprofitable at this time.

About twenty-five miles from the Colorado, on one of the branches of this river, is the celebrated enchanted rock. It is about two hundred feet high, of an oval form, similar to an egg, half imbedded in the soil. It is held sacred by the Indians, and at stated periods, they perform their dances and make sacrifices to the Great Spirit, at this place. There is a spring of water which comes out of it near the top, and spreads

over and covers a portion of it with water. It is composed of different colored flint, and has a most brilliant appearance when the sun shines upon it. Of a dark night, it has the appearance of being brilliantly illuminated, which is supposed to be caused by some phosphoric substance. An Indian never passes it without paying his devotion to the Great Spirit.

On the Piedernalis, and in fact every portion of the hilly country, almost every hollow tree is filled with bees. They make more honey than in any country I have ever seen, so the country literally flows with milk and honey.

About eight miles above the mouth of the Piedernalis, Honey creek enters the Colorado, from the east. It is a considerable stream, but only about eighteen miles in length. It runs through a beautifully rolling and well timbered country, till it approaches near the river, when it passes through an extensive bottom prairie. The bottoms in this portion of the Colorado river are generally about four miles in extent and skirted with beautiful and picturesque hills, which are generally covered with timber.

The Llano river enters the Colorado from the west, about ten miles above the mouth of Honey creek. Like the Piedernalis, it is a short but large river, and like that stream is entirely formed by springs. It is about eighty miles in length, and flows through a beautifully undulating country, of good water and rich land. The land upon this river contains a sufficient supply of timber for all the purposes of agriculture. Gold,

silver, copper, and lead have been found upon this river, but it has not been sufficiently examined to ascertain the value of those mines. It is a fine farming and grazing country.

A few miles above the mouth of the Llano, are the great falls of the Colorado. It is not a perpendicular fall, but rather a succession of falls, which extend for about eight hundred yards. The first fall is about twenty feet perpendicular; within one hundred feet there is another of ten feet. The falls continue in rapid succession until they reach a perpendicular height of near one hundred feet. The bottoms here, on both sides of the river, are wide and fertile. The river above these falls has a smooth and easy current for more than two hundred miles, and does not appear to diminish in size.

Hunting creek is a stream about sixteen miles long, which enters the Colorado from the east, four miles above the great falls. The bottoms upon it are extensive, and the land well timbered and fertile.

The San Saba is a river of about two hundred miles in length, which rises in the Padre Pinta mountains; and its whole course lies between two considerable hills, which extend from those mountains nearly to the Colorado river. The valley varies in width from six to twenty-five miles, and cannot be surpassed in beauty and fertility by any other equal extent of the earth. It has no large tributaries. La Bufa, and La Plata creeks are its principal branches. The valley has an abundant supply of timber, and will, when

it shall become settled, support as dense a population as any other country. About thirty miles from the mouth of this river was once an old Spanish mission and fort, which was destroyed by the Comanche Indians more than a hundred years ago. Tradition has located a valuable silver mine near this place, but its precise location is unknown.

The Mexican tradition gives the following history of the destruction of this fort: "It was in a situation of great prosperity, and carrying on an extensive trade with the Comanche Indians in furs, peltries, &c., and the mines yielded a rich profit in bullion. There were about one hundred laborers in the mines, and one hundred soldiers for the protection of the posts—and a number of women, who were principally engaged in the manufacture of articles for the Indian trade. Nearly all the soldiers were out upon an expedition, and the Comanches came down, apparently to trade, and were admitted into the fort in great numbers. There was not more than a dozen soldiers to defend the post. At a signal given by the chief, the Indians drew concealed weapons from under their buffalo robes, and assassinated every soldier within the fort. They then made an attack upon the portion occupied by the women, and soon massacred them all. The laborers in the mines fled in every direction, and having no arms, were easily despatched one at a time. The priest alone made his escape, and that by a miracle: he fled to the river and the waters opened, as the Red sea did

for the Israelites of old, and suffered him to pass through on dry land, and as the Indians pursued, closed up and swept them to a common grave. The priest, after great suffering, reached the Spanish mission of San Juan, which was, at that time, the only Spanish settlement upon the San Antonio river. The soldiers, a few days after, returned to the fort and found the mangled bodies of their companions, and the banks of the river covered with dead Indians, and as they could see no marks of violence upon them, they pronounced it a miracle:" and the river, from that circumstance, received the name of the "*Brazos de Dios*," or the "Arm of God;" but in the little which was known of this country, the name got changed to the Colorado, which was formerly applied to the Brazos river—which is a much more appropriate name, for "Colorado" means red, and the Colorado is a very clear stream. This tradition is believed by all the old Mexicans about San Antonio. The soldiers did not attempt to renew the post, but repaired to the settlement on the San Antonio river.

The timber which was used about the fort and church is now as sound as it ever was. It is astonishing how long timber will last in the northern portions of this country.

The Pecan bayou enters the Colorado from the east, about twenty-five miles above the mouth of the San Saba river. It is about one hundred and twenty-five miles in length, and flows through a rich body of well timbered land. The Tawacany Indians reside near the head of this stream.

One hundred miles above the mouth of the Pecan bayou, the Pasigono river enters the Colorado from the north-east. Here the Colorado bends suddenly to the south-west, while the Pasigono continues in the same direction of the general course of the Colorado below this river. The Pyaroya, the Muchegua, and the Salado creeks are three streams which enter this river. The land watered by all these streams is a rich prairie country, and almost destitute of timber. Near the head of the Pasigono river, is the celebrated petrified forest, which has attracted so much attention from naturalists. Here is a forest of several hundred acres of trees *standing*, which are turned to stone. This is a plain contradiction to all the *theory* which has heretofore existed on the subject of petrification. The doctrine of requiring a submergation to produce petrification, is entirely disproved. And petrifications which exist in many parts of this country show evident marks of recent formation. Trees which are growing are sometimes partially changed to stone, and there is a set of wagon wheels upon the upper Presidio road, between the Rio Frio and Nueces, which are petrified. They are on a high hill, and the country could not have been covered by water since they were left there. These wheels were seen by Deaf Smith, Captain Lewis, now of the first regiment regular infantry, and several other Americans.

The Pisapejuona, the Aroyo Frio, and the Aqualas are the principal branches of the Colorado above the mouth of this river. The land

watered by these streams is represented as being very rich, but entirely destitute of timber. It is also destitute of water, except in the rivers, and they are frequently dry in the summer season. From this circumstance it has received the name of "*the desert.*"

Trespalacios bay is a branch of the Matagorda bay, formed by Trespalacios creek. It enters the Matagorda bay below Dog-Island bar, and any vessel which can enter the pass into Matagorda bay can come into this bay.

The town of Palascios is laid off upon the eastern side of Trespalacios bay. Vessels drawing ten feet water can come within twenty feet of the shore at this place; but owing to a dispute in the title to the land on which the town is located, it has made no improvement.

Trespalacios creek is about thirty miles in length, and is the principal branch of this bay. It runs through a rich and fertile country but one almost destitute of timber. Wilson's creek is its principal tributary.

At the junction of those two streams there has been a town laid off which has been called Tide-haven. It is at the head of tide water—and the creek has six feet water up to this place. A canal or rail road of five miles in length would connect it with the Colorado river above the raft. It is a very healthy and pleasant situation, and will probably be a place of some importance.

The Caranchua creek enters the Matagorda bay about twelve miles west of the Trespalacios. It is in Jackson county, and the line between

Matagorda and Jackson counties runs on the dividing ridge between those two streams. It is about thirty-five miles in length, and runs through a rich body of prairie land, with but little timber upon it.

LA BACA BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

THE La Baca bay is a branch of the Matagorda bay. It is about twenty-five miles in length, and from three to six in width. It has a general depth of from twelve to eighteen feet water; and any vessel which can enter the Matagorda bay, can come into the La Baca bay without difficulty.

Cox's Point is situated on a point of land upon the east side of the bay—it has long been a place of deposite, where goods have been landed and wagoned to the up country. A town has been laid off at this place, but there has been but little improvement.

Linnville is another landing, upon the west side of the bay, where a great many goods have been received. It is finely situated for the commerce of the up country, and will no doubt be a place of considerable importance. The custom house for the district of La Baca is located at Linnville.

Dimitt's Landing is situated at the head of the bay, on the west side of the La Baca river.

The La Baca river is the principal tributary of the La Baca bay. It is about one hundred miles in length, and enters the bay with about four feet water, which continues to Texana, about twenty-five miles from the bay.

The Navidad is the principal tributary of the La Baca river. It rises in Fayette county—some of its branches extend into the county of Bastrop. It is about one hundred miles in length, and has its whole course through an extensive body of fertile land.

Texana is situated on the west bank of the Navidad river, six miles above its junction with the La Baca. It is admirably situated for commerce, and will no doubt command an extensive trade. Until the navigation of the Colorado shall be opened, Texana will be the most important point in western Texas for the commerce of the north-western portion of the Republic. It is the county seat of Jackson county.

Mustang creek is a tributary of the Navidad river. It rises in Colorado county. It is about forty miles in length, and flows through a rich and beautifully undulating country, agreeably interspersed with woodland and prairie, until it reaches the Navidad, about five miles above its mouth.

Waterhole, Spring, Upper and Lower Rocky creeks and the Sandies are the other tributaries of the Navidad. The country watered by them is one of great beauty and fertility, and is beginning to attract great attention.

The other principal branches of the La Baca

river, are Mary Augusta and Valentine's creeks, which enter from the east, and Brushy, Smith-er's, Brown's, Rocky and Ponton's creeks, which enter the river from the west, in Clark's settle-ment. The country watered by them and the La Baca river is similar to that on the Navidad and its branches. The La Baca forms the eas-tern boundary of Jackson and Colorado counties, and separates them from Victoria and Gonzales. It is not navigable more than about eight miles above the mouth of the Navidad.

About forty miles above Texana, on the La Baca, is situated a neighborhood known by the name of "Clark's settlement." The land in this section is of an excellent quality, well timbered and well watered, and the country is rapidly im-proving. The settlement is composed of a very industrious and enterprizing community of far-mers, and is one of the most intelligent and re-spectable in the Republic.

The Garcitas, Aronoso, Union, and Chocolate creeks are four other branches of the La Baca bay. They all rise in Victoria county. They are small, but the country watered by them is of great fertility and beauty.

ESPIRITU SANTO BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

THE Espiritu Santo bay is a small bay between the Matagorda and Aransas bays, with both of which it is connected by a pass; so that small vessels may pass from one to the other. It has about seven feet water over the bar; vessels drawing this depth may ascend to the head of the bay. It is a beautiful bay, and is surrounded by a fertile and picturesque country.

The Guadalupe and San Antonio rivers, which unite just before they reach the bay, are its principal tributaries.

The Guadalupe river rises in the Padre Pinta mountains, and, for two hundred miles, flows in nearly an eastern direction. Below Gonzales, it turns to the south-east, and continues in that course until it reaches the bay.

The Guadalupe forms a portion of the eastern boundary of Victoria county. The entrance into this river is obstructed by a small raft at the mouth, of a few hundred yards in length. It might be very easily removed, and it would then be navigable at all seasons of the year to Victo-

ria, about sixty-five miles by water from the coast.

The town of Victoria is pleasantly situated, upon the east side of the Guadalupe river, at the crossing of the lower Goliad and San Antonio road. It is situated in the midst of a very fertile and well timbered country, twenty miles by land from Linnville, is rapidly improving, and bids fair to become a place of very considerable importance. It is the seat of justice of Victoria county, and contains about three hundred inhabitants.

The country between the coast and Victoria is very fertile and beautiful, and has a good supply of timber. Good cotton and sugar lands may be procured in this part of the country at from fifty cents to one dollar per acre.

The Coleta river is a stream of sixty-five miles in length, which rises in the county of Bexar, and flows in a north-eastern direction till it reaches the Guadalupe river, a few miles below Victoria. It flows through a beautifully romantic country of rich land, and has a plenty of timber for the purposes of building and agriculture. It forms a portion of the eastern boundary of Victoria county, and separates it from Refugio and Goliad.

Sandy creek is a stream of twenty-five miles in length, which enters the Guadalupe, from the west, in the lower part of Gonzales county. The land upon it is rich and tolerably well timbered.

Peach creek enters the Guadalupe river, about

six miles below Gonzales, from the east. It is about twenty-five miles in length and runs through a very beautiful and fertile country.

Gonzales is situated upon the eastern side of the Guadalupe, three-quarters of a mile below the mouth of the San Marcos. It is the seat of justice of Gonzales county, and contains about two hundred and fifty inhabitants. With slight improvement it is believed the river would be navigable for small steam boats to this place. Situated as it is, in the heart of a rich, fertile, and healthy country, navigation would make it one of the most important situations in the western country. Gonzales is seventy-five miles south of Austin, and about the same distance east of San Antonio.

Kerr's and Smith's creeks are two small streams which enter the Guadalupe, from the east, between Gonzales and the mouth of the San Marcos. They flow through a fertile country.

The San Marcos is a considerable stream, which is formed by a large spring in the southwestern part of Bastrop county, about six miles above the old Nacogdoches and San Antonio road. This spring is one of the curiosities of this country. It bursts out from under a large rock, and forms a river of forty yards in width and five feet in depth. The water is pure and transparent, and the river contains immense quantities of fish. The spring is surrounded by hills, which form one of the most beautiful and picturesque valleys in the world: this place is thought by many to be the most pleasant and de-

lightful situation in the Republic. It is surrounded by a rich farming country and would be a fine situation for a manufacturing town. A military post will shortly be established at this spring. The country through which it flows is all fertile and very well timbered.

The Rio Blanco is a stream of seventy-five miles in length, which enters the San Marcos about three miles below the head spring. It is a beautiful crystal stream and runs through a very fertile and beautiful country.

The town of Seguin is pleasantly situated on the eastern bank of the Guadalupe, twenty-two miles above the town of Gonzales. It is a new place, having been settled in the fall of 1838.—It is improving rapidly; and the country around it will in all probability soon become densely settled. It is the highest settlement upon the Guadalupe river.

The country from this to the head of the river is fertile and beautifully undulating and would support a dense population. Towards its source it is mountainous. Walnut, Cedar, Salinas, Verde, and Piedras creeks are its principal branches. They are all formed by springs, and the water is pure and transparent.

There is a large cave near the head of Cedar creek, but its extent has never been explored. The San Antonio river enters the Guadalupe from the west, two miles from the bay. It is navigable for small steamboats to New La Bahia, which is situated about ten miles below Goliad, on the east side of the river. The entrance to

the river from the bay is obstructed by a small raft, which might be removed at a very inconsiderable expense. New La Bahia would then become a place of considerable importance. It is surrounded by a healthy, fertile and beautiful country.

Goliad or La Bahia is an old Mexican town, situated upon the west side of the San Antonio river, at the crossing of the old Nacogdoches and Matamoras road. It was settled about seventy-five years ago, and was once a place of considerable importance. It is built almost entirely of stone—has a stone fort and church of great strength. For with the old Spaniards, their churches were always built so as to be readily converted into forts. It has also an old stone church upon the opposite side of the river where the town was first built. The town is now in ruins—it was destroyed during our revolution, and has not since been rebuilt. This town was built upon a rock, and is one of the best natural places for defence in any country. The Spanish government had spared no expense in its fortification, and when they had brought it to that point of defence which they considered impregnable, its name was changed from "La Bahia" to *Goliad*—the place of strength. It is now entirely dismantled and does not contain more than from thirty to forty inhabitants. It is the seat of justice of Goliad county.

The Cleto is a creek which enters the San Antonio from the east, thirty miles above Goliad, near the southern boundary of Bexar county.

It is a beautiful clear stream, and flows through a fertile body of land, mostly prairie, but has a sufficient quantity of timber for planting purposes.

From the mouth of the Cleto to the mouth of the Cibolo, a distance of about sixteen miles, the San Antonio river forms the boundary of Goliad and Bexar counties, at which place the county line of Bexar strikes off in a south-western direction till it reaches the Rio Grande.

The Cibolo is a river of one hundred and fifty miles in length, which is formed by a large spring, which bursts out of one of the peaks of the Padre Pinta mountains. It is but a small stream, and in its course towards the San Antonio, receives no accession to its waters—and appears to be larger at its head spring than any other part of the stream. It flows through a very fertile and delightful country, and has an abundant supply of timber. The largest live oak which I have seen in any country grows upon this river, but there is no way of transporting it to the coast.

Near this river just below the crossing of the Gonzales road, are the celebrated white sulphur springs, of Bexar county. These are the most beautiful springs in the world. They consist of a large basin, similar to a bowl of twenty feet in diameter, dug out of a solid rock. The water boils up from the bottom and runs off with a bold stream. They are surrounded by a beautiful and fertile country; but at a short distance to the east of them is an extensive post oak barren, which will not probably be settled for many years; which will furnish a great range and a fine outlet for those

who delight in the chase. It will no doubt become a place of considerable resort.

The Medina is the principal tributary of the San Antonio river. It is formed by a large fountain in the hilly country about eighty miles north-west from the city of San Antonio, and runs in a south-eastern direction till it unites with the San Antonio river, about twenty miles below the city. It heads in an extensive valley, which is watered by the Bandera, the San Julian, the Sequia, the Jerimino, the Sausa, and the Poteanca. They are all considerable streams, and like the Medina are all formed by large fountains.

The valley watered by these streams is one of extraordinary beauty and fertility—the water is pure and transparent, and the country as healthy as any upon earth.

The Medio and Leon are two creeks which empty into the Medina from the north. The land upon all these streams is fertile, beautiful, and healthy, and cannot be surpassed by any country of equal extent in the world. The valley of the Medina once contained a considerable Spanish settlement, but in the constant broils and revolutions which distracted that unhappy country, it has been destroyed, and scarcely a trace of it now remains. The only settlements now upon the river are a few Mexican families who reside below the crossing of the Laredo road. Lands upon this stream may be procured at from fifty cents to one dollar per acre.

The Salado is a small but beautiful stream which rises from a spring about twelve miles

north of the city of San Antonio, and passes within three miles of the city, and enters the river sixteen miles below. To say that the country through which it passes is fertile and beautiful, would only be repeating what has been said of it by every traveller who has seen the country. The old mission of San Juan is near the mouth of this stream, upon the east side of the San Antonio river. It was the first settlement made by the Spaniards in Texas, but was afterwards abandoned for San Antonio.

The San Antonio river is formed by about one hundred large springs in a beautiful valley four miles above the city. Many of these springs would singly form a river; and when they unite in the San Antonio, they form a bold and rapid stream of two hundred feet in width, and about four feet deep over the shoals. The river has considerable fall, and the earlier settlers have taken advantage of it for the purposes of irrigation, and by means of ditches, the water of the river has been carried over the whole extensive valley of the San Antonio. The fertility, beauty, and healthiness of this valley have been celebrated from its earliest settlement. It cannot be surpassed by any country for the abundance of its production; and the many aged Mexicans who have resided in and about this city for the last eighty years, speak volumes in favor of its health.

Sugar and cotton were once extensively cultivated about the city, and a considerable manufactory was established. But a series of misfortunes commencing with the Mexican revolution, has

attended this ill-fated city ever since. At times it became the prey of its own factions and the different Indian tribes. It became the sport and by-word of the Comanches, and every petty Indian tribe exacted a tribute from its citizens.—Under these circumstances, no place could flourish, and the town had been declining for many years; and the campaigns of 1835 and '36 left it almost a heap of ruins. It has been slowly recovering since that time—but it will be long before it will reach its former grandeur.

The city is built in the curves of the river—upon the west side. It is built almost entirely of stone, and the houses so constructed as to be very readily converted into forts. They have flat roofs, are one story high, with walls of from three to four feet in thickness.

The public squares are surrounded entirely by solid blocks of stone buildings—and are capable of being converted, at the approach of an enemy into almost impregnable places of defence. The Mexican government always kept a large quantity of artillery for the defence of the city, but with all this outward show of strength, the wild Comanche was permitted to commit his depredations within the very walls of the city.

The old dismantled Alamo stands immediately on the bank of the river opposite the city. It is now a heap of ruins. It was blown up and destroyed by Filisola on his retreat from Texas in 1836. This place has been consecrated by the blood of a Travis, a Bowie, and a Bonham, and will be held sacred by the Texan

people as long as chivalry shall be considered a virtue.

The city of San Antonio is the seat of justice of Bexar county: it contains about eight hundred Mexican, and about one hundred American inhabitants. They are mostly engaged in an extensive trade with the northern Mexican states.

Two miles and a half above the city, amongst the springs, there has been a new city laid off, which has received the name of Avoca. It would be useless to say it is a delightful situation, for it would be hard to find one about San Antonio that is not.

The old mission of Conception is situated on the eastern bank of the river, two miles and a half below the city of San Antonio. It has once been a splendid building, but is now only inhabited by bats and owls.

The mission of San José is on the west side of the river, four miles below the city. It was once perhaps the most splendid specimen of Gothic architecture among the numerous specimens left by the early Spanish settlers. Attached to it were a college, a female institution, and a convent. It has suffered much from time, and more from the trespasses of visitors. It has now been converted into a military post, and a portion of the Texian troops are stationed at that place.

ARANSAS BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

ARANSAS BAY is about twenty-five miles from north-east to south-west, and about twelve miles in width. It has an entrance over the bar from the gulf of eight feet water, at the lowest tide. It is formed by St. Joseph's island, which lies in front of it, and the main land. It has a general depth of from twelve to sixteen feet, but is obstructed by a shoal and range of islands which run across the bay, over which there is not more than four and a half feet water. It has a channel connecting it with Espiritu Santo bay, and vessels or steam boats drawing four and a half feet water may pass from the Matagorda bay through the Espiritu Santo bay into that of Aransas; and from this into the Corpus Christi bay, and with three feet water into the Lagune de la Madra and the Brazos Santa Iago. So there is an uninterrupted inland navigation through these bays for more than three hundred miles.

St. Joseph's island is about twenty-four miles in length, and from two to four in breadth: it is separated from the Matagorda island by the Espiritu Santo inlet. It is a low flat island, containing some good land, but no timber, except a few small scrubby live oaks.

The Copano bay is a branch of the Aransas bay: it is twenty miles in length and from one to three in breadth. Any vessel which can come over the bar into Aransas bay, can pass into Copano bay. It is separated from Aransas bay by a neck of land of twenty miles in length and from two to five in width. This peninsula is a high, dry, and beautiful situation: it is covered by a heavy growth of live oak timber, and has several springs of clear and pure water.

The city of Aransas is situated at the point of this peninsula. It is pleasantly situated, with a good port and harbor, but owing to the difficulty of approach from the main land, except from the south west, it is not very well situated for the country trade. It is the port of entry for the Aransas district. It has about one hundred inhabitants.

The city of Lamar, situated upon the opposite side of the Copano pass, has a high and healthy situation, and is admirably situated for the commerce of the up country. The harbor to Aransas and Lamar is the same, and vessels can approach almost as near the one as the other.—The city of Lamar has about seventy-five inhabitants.

Copano is a town situated upon the Copano bay, near the mouth of Copano creek; it is on a high bluff, and has a good landing, and vessels drawing seven feet water may come to within forty yards of the shore. It is a pleasant and healthy place and has about sixty inhabitants. Aransas and Copano bays receive no large tri-

butaries: Copano and Melon creeks and Refugio, and Aransas rivers are the principal.

Power's, Walker's, Copano, and Melon's creeks are four streams which enter the Aransas bay from the north: they all rise in Refugio county.

The Mission river enters the Copano bay just above the town of Copano, through a small bay called Refugio bay. It is formed by Saco, Blanco, Middle, and Sans creeks. They are all beautiful and clear streams, and flow through a fertile and picturesque country. The western, is very dissimilar to the eastern coast of Texas. Here the bright, clear, dancing water—broken by cascades and water falls, meets the waves of the ocean—and the settler may enjoy all the advantages of the up country while he is but a few miles from the sea shore.

The old Mission and town of Refugio is situated near the junction of Middle and Blanco creeks, on the east side of the Refugio river. It once contained a population of near eight hundred inhabitants, but owing to the utter want of protection to the western country, it is now almost in ruins. But arrangements are being made which will put that country in a better state of defence, when its natural advantages cannot fail to command a dense population. That portion of the country has nothing to fear from Indian difficulties, and marauding parties of Mexicans alone are to be feared, and I hope they will not be feared much longer. Refugio is the seat of justice of the county of the same name, and contains about fifty inhabitants.

The Refugio river is navigable for steam boats drawing three feet water to this place.

The Aransas river is the principal branch of the Aransas bay. It rises in the county of Goliad and forms a portion of the dividing line between the counties of Goliad and San Patricio. It is about eighty-five miles in length. Its principal branches are the Popalota, Aroyo del Agler, and Chiltipine creeks. They are all clear and beautiful streams, and flow through a country similar to that watered by the Mission river and its branches.

A large portion of the country watered by these streams is prairie, but it has a sufficient quantity of timber for agricultural purposes. The whole country abounds in live oak, and, in all probability, an extensive commerce in this timber will be carried on from the Aransas and Copano bays.

The land upon this bay and its tributaries is very fertile, and equal to any land in the country for the production of cotton and sugar. The Mexican inhabitants used to cultivate large quantities of tobacco, of a light kind, similar to that used in the manufacture of Havana segars.

CORPUS CHRISTI BAY AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

THE Corpus Christi bay is about forty miles from north to south, and thirty miles from east to west. It is connected with Aransas bay by a narrow pass, of six feet water; and connected with the gulf by Corpus Christi inlet over the bar of which there is seven feet water. It is entirely destitute of bars, with clear water and high banks; and is the most beautiful bay in the world.

Mustang island is about forty-five miles in length, and from two to four in breadth. It is a beautiful island, with rich land, but destitute of timber.

Nueces bay is situated at the mouth of Nueces river—it is a branch of Corpus Christi bay—and connects with it over a pass of four feet water.—It is eight miles long and four miles in width—The Nueces river is its only tributary.

The country around the Nueces, and Corpus Christi bay is one of extraordinary beauty and fertility, and as well adapted to the cultivation of cotton and sugar, and the raising of stock as any country upon earth. The country is beautifully undulating and contains a good supply of timber.

More fertile land cannot be found in any portion of the Republic than is to be found upon the Corpus Christi bay and the Nueces river. The climate is mild and healthful, and it would be difficult to find a more desirable country.

The Nueces river rises in the Guadalupe mountains. It is about three hundred miles in length, and runs in nearly an eastern direction. It is a deep narrow stream and is navigable for small boats to San Patricio, about forty miles; but the country is at present, entirely destitute of inhabitants.

Palestine and Grayson are two towns which have been laid off upon the west side of Corpus Christi bay. They are both beautiful situations, but all which has been done in the way of improvement is to give them a name.

San Patricio is situated about forty miles from Corpus Christi bay—it is on the north side of the river, and one of the most beautiful situations to be found in any country. It was settled by a colony of Irish late in the fall of 1832. Its population consisted of three hundred families who came direct from Ireland, and remained there until the revolution broke out in 1836—and what speaks volumes in favor of the health of the country—a death never occurred in the place.—Those people came direct from Ireland, and settled at a place below the twenty-eighth degree of north latitude, and not a death occurred amongst them. San Patricio once contained six hundred inhabitants—it was deserted in 1836, on account of its exposed situation and its inhabitants have

not yet returned to their homes. Cotton planted at San Patricio in 1833 is growing yet—it was when planted, the short staple green seed—it is now the finest quality of sea island cotton.

From San Patricio to the mouth of the Rio Frio, the land bordering upon the river, and for fifteen or twenty miles upon each side of it, is similar to that about San Patricio. It is a deep, black, rich soil, and unsurpassed by any land in the world for the cultivation of cotton and sugar. The river would be navigable for small boats to San Patricio, and with a little improvement, to the mouth of the Rio Frio. It is the best stock raising country in Texas, on account of its being entirely destitute of flies, and the extensive musquit prairies afford the best pasture in the world. In these prairies it is not uncommon to see from fifteen hundred to two thousand wild horses in a drove; some of them are animals of extraordinary beauty and great speed. They have also, extensive herds of wild cattle, but buffalo rarely ever range so far to the south.

The Rio Frio is the principal branch of the Nueces. It enters it from the north. It rises in the Guadalupe mountains, and runs in nearly a south-western direction. It is about one hundred and fifty miles in length.

About ten miles from its junction with the Nueces, it receives the Alascoso: the LaParita, Tordillo, and Puente de la Piedra are its principal branches. The country watered by these streams is fertile, but very destitute of timber, except a small quantity upon the margin of the streams.

The San Miguel river enters the Rio Frio from the east, six miles from the Alasco. It rises in the Guadalupe mountains, near the head of the Rio Frio, and runs almost parallel with that river until it unites with it. It is about one hundred and twenty miles in length. The Zapata, Chican, Pedro Perez, Honda, Quihe, and La Plata creeks are its principal tributaries.—Most of them rise in the extensive prairie between the Madina, and the Rio Frio, and water an extensive and fertile country, but one that is very destitute of timber. The Arroya Saco is its remotest branch—it rises in the Valle de la Verde, which is formed by two considerable ranges of the Piedra Pinta mountains. This valley is one of great fertility and beauty: it is about twenty-five miles in length and from four to ten in width. These mountains were thought by the Mexicans to be extremely rich in mines of gold and silver, and it is said by the old inhabitants of San Antonio that they were once wrought with great profit; but owing to the depredations of the Indians they were entirely abandoned. The country about the foot of the mountains and in the valleys is generally well timbered.

The other branches of the Rio Frio are the Laguna, the Leona, the D'Ora, and the Arroya de Uvaldo. They all have extensive bottoms of rich land, but the uplands bordering upon them are generally rocky and sterile.

The Arroya de Uvaldo heads in the beautiful valley known by the name of the Cañon de Uvaldo. It is formed by about one hundred

springs of pure water, which water every portion of the valley. The valley contains sixteen leagues, or seventy thousand eight hundred and forty-eight acres of land; and, like the happy valley of Rasselas, described by Johnson, is surrounded by inaccessible mountains, into which there are but two passes. They are so easily defended that Colonel Uvaldo, a Spanish officer from whom the valley derives its name, defended it with twenty soldiers for more than a week, against the attack of five hundred Comanches, and vanquished them. After entering the valley it is impossible to conceive of a more romantic and delightful situation: you look around on every side and see the rugged battlements of nature frowning in gloomy grandeur over the flower clad prairie, which is traversed in every direction by the purest streams of crystal water; the banks of which are lined with timber so regularly that it appears to have been planted by the hands of man. The land is of extraordinary fertility and would produce sugar and cotton, and all the necessaries of life in great abundance, while the streams afford the greatest facility for water power. The valley contains a rich mine of gold, which is believed to be the richest in the country. Its agricultural, combined with its mining advantages, would easily support a population of eighty thousand inhabitants.

From the mouth of the Rio Frio to the head of the Nueces, the country bordering upon the river is mostly rocky and sterile, except upon the

banks of the stream, where the bottoms are rich and extensive. The country upon the Nueces and its branches is entirely destitute of inhabitants, but is one that must command a speedy population, so soon as a sufficient protection is afforded to our western frontier.

The Agua Dulce, the Los Pintas and Salt creeks are three small streams which enter the Corpus Christi bay west of the mouth of the Nueces. They all run through a fertile body of musquit prairie land, which is almost entirely destitute of timber. In travelling over these extensive prairies, the eye is only relieved by the immense herds of wild horses and cattle which are forever in view.

THE LAGUNE DE LA MADRA AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

LAGUNE DE LA MADRA is a long shallow sound, formed by the main land upon the west, and Padras island upon the east. It is eighty miles in length, and from four to six in width. It is generally very shallow, having in many places not more than from eight to fourteen inches water, but has a narrow channel near to the main land of about three and a half feet water. It is the best fishery upon the coast, and when the wind blows strong from the north,

thousands of barrels of red fish are left bare upon the beach. This lake is of very little use as a harbor, and affords but indifferent navigation, even for small boats.

At the southern extremity, however there is an inlet known by the name of the Brazos Santiago, which has seven feet over the bar and affords a safe and commodious harbor within. Most of the goods intended for Matamoras are landed at this place, and wagoned to the city, which is only thirteen miles distant.

There is a narrow neck of land between the bay of the Brazos Santiago and the Rio Grande. It would combine all the advantages of the harbor and the navigation of the river, and would be a most admirable situation for a commercial city.

The San Gertrudes is a stream of fifty miles in length, which rises in the large prairie west of the Matamoras road, and runs in an eastern direction till it reaches the lake. Its whole course is through a rich musquit prairie, which is entirely destitute of timber, except musquit and a small quantity of live oak, ash and hackberry, upon the banks of the stream. The water of this creek is brackish, and in the summer season forms in places considerable salt.

The Escondeda is a beautiful lake of pure fresh water, about three miles east of the Matamoras road, near this stream, and communicates with it by a small rivulet. It is in the midst of a rich and beautiful country, and has a good supply of musquit and live oak timber.

The Los Olmos is a stream of sixty miles in length, which enters the Lagune de la Madra about twenty miles south of the mouth of the San Gertrudes. Like the San Gertrudes, it runs through a rich musquit prairie, but one that is almost destitute of timber. Upon this stream there was once a considerable Spanish settlement, but the country is now deserted.

A few miles south of the Los Olmos, commences a sandy barren ridge, known by the name of the Wild Horse desert. It extends from the coast nearly one hundred miles inland, and is from ten to sixteen miles in width. It contains but little vegetation, except a coarse sedge grass, and a few live oak bushes. It is so perfectly sterile and dry that it has even been deserted by insects and reptiles, and in passing over it the traveller scarcely meets with a living thing.

About two miles south of this desert, and in the edge of one of the most beautiful and fertile prairies in Texas is the celebrated salt lake, which has for more than a century supplied the northern Mexican states with salt. The lake is one mile and a half in length and half a mile in width. It is formed entirely by salt springs, and the salt crystalizes so fast that a hundred mules may be loaded from it and in twenty four hours it cannot be told from what place it was taken. The bottom of the lake is covered with salt from one to seven feet in thickness—the world might be supplied from this lake, and scarcely diminish the quantity. It forms in large crystals, and is the best kind of pure allum salt.

There have been a few settlements about the lake, but they are nearly all deserted; but hundreds of people visit it annually for the purpose of procuring salt. It would afford one of the best situations for the inland trade of Mexico in the country. This lake is surrounded by the best stock raising country in the world, and the wild cattle, horses, deer, and elk resort to it in thousands. It is sixty-five miles from the Brazos Santiago harbor, and eighty from the Corpus Christi bay—thirty miles from the coast on the Lagune de la Madra, and thirty-nine miles from the Rio Grande. There are other salt lakes in the neighborhood, but no other where the salt crystalizes itself in any great quantity. The rich musquit prairie extends from this lake to the Rio Grande.

The Sal Colorado is a salt water river of sixty-five miles in length, which rises in the prairie country, near the Salt lake, and runs in an easterly direction till it empties into the southern part of the Lagune de la Madra, near the harbor of the Brazos Santiago. It flows through a rich musquit country.

After passing the Wild Horse desert, there is but little variation in the land south of it until you reach the Rio Grande. It is all a musquit prairie country, of great fertility, but nearly destitute of timber, except musquit and live oak, which grow in great abundance, in some places. In this country the prickly pear, and most of the species of the cactus, reach an extraordinary size. That, and the miga, which is a species of

the aloe, are the two most magnificent plants upon earth. Here the prickly pear reaches a height of fifteen or twenty feet, and in the spring, when covered all over with its white, yellow and deep crimson flowers, it is difficult to conceive of a more beautiful sight.

The miga is a plant not less interesting. It is composed of a great number of leaves which spring out of the the ground like the leaves of the flag. They are generally an inch and a half in thickness—from twelve to sixteen inches in width and twelve feet long. From the centre of those leaves springs up a stem from eighteen to thirty feet in height, which from six feet above the ground throws off branches of twelve and eighteen inches in length to the top of the stem. In the spring of the year, this stem and its branches are covered with a solid mass of large white flowers.

The Spanish palmetto, also reaches an extraordinary height and beauty. These plants and the thousand varieties of nameless, beautiful shrubbery, and the more unobtrusive flowers which carpet the prairie, render this one of the most interesting countries in the world. There are also great varieties of wild fruits of an exquisite flavor to be met with in this country. I am of opinion that the country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, with the exception of the Wild Horse desert, is, (as high as the Laredo road, embracing a country more than a hundred miles square,) the best cotton and sugar country in North America.

THE RIO GRANDE.

THE Rio Grande, or Rio del Norte, forms the south-western boundary of Texas. It rises in the Cordilleras, or Rocky mountains in about the forty or forty-second degree of north latitude, and flows in a south-western direction until it enters the gulf of Mexico at about the twenty-sixth degree of north latitude. It is eighteen hundred miles in length, but owing to its great rapidity and the innumerable rapids, it is of very little use for navigation above Laredo, situated about two hundred miles from the coast. To this place, a steam boat was once taken by Capt. Austin, but owing to the superstition of the Mexican people, and the attachment of the government to ancient practices, it was ordered off the river. An epidemic broke out upon the river about the time the boat made her trip, and the muleteers feared the ruin of their business, and the whole people united in a petition to the government to have the *nuisance* removed; their prayer was granted, and a decree passed that no steam boat should hereafter be allowed to run the river. Thus terminated the career of the first and last steam boat which ever made a trip upon the "grand river of the north."

The river enters the gulf over a shallow bar of not more than three feet water. At the mouth it is about three hundred yards in width.

After passing the bar, the river has a deep, smooth current to Laredo, above which place it is obstructed by falls and rapids.

Matamoras is situated about forty miles from the mouth of this river, upon the south side. It is the seat of government of the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, and contains about five thousand inhabitants.

A town located upon the north side, in the territory of Texas, on the peninsula formed by the river and the Boca Chica, would be decidedly a better situation for commerce; as it would combine all the advantages of the river, and the harbor of the Brazos Santiago. The government should at this place have a strong military station, and it would be one of the most important commercial points in the Republic.

Renosa, Camargo, Mier, and Revila are four Mexican towns upon the south side of the Rio Grande, below Laredo. They are not places of much importance. There are few settlements upon the north side of the river, below Laredo; nor is there any great difference in the quality or appearance of the country throughout this portion of the valley of the Rio Grande.

Laredo is a town upon the Texas side of the Rio Grande, at the crossing of the San Antonio and Saltillo road. It is two hundred miles from the coast, and at the head of navigation, and contains about six hundred inhabitants. It is a

pleasant and delightful situation, and will be a place of much importance. The population is almost entirely Mexican, but is favorably disposed towards this country.

Above the Laredo road, the country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, becomes more rolling and hilly, and seventy-five or eighty miles above, it is mountainous. But the valley on the river is broad and very fertile.

The Presidio de Rio Grande is a Mexican military station eighty miles above Laredo, on the south-west bank of the river. It has been the head quarters of nearly all the robbing parties which have annoyed our western frontier since 1836.

One hundred miles above the Presidio de Rio Grande, the river receives the Puerco from the north. It is much the largest tributary of the Rio Grande—being more than five hundred miles in length, and one hundred yards in width at its mouth.

It rises in the mountains near Santa Fē, and runs nearly in a southern direction till it unites with the Rio Grande. Its whole course lies through a beautiful and romantic valley of from twelve to forty miles in width, of uncommon fertility, and capable of supporting a very dense population. Its general distance from the Rio Grande is about seventy-five miles; it runs nearly parallel with that river, and is separated from it by several peaks of mountains, but the mountains are not an extended chain. The mountains are known in different places by the names of the

Santa del Chamate, the Sierra del Pilares, the Sierra el Diablo, the Santa de los Orgunos: some of these peaks are of twenty-five hundred feet in height, but most of them are mere hills.

Above the mouth of this river the Rio Grande is very rapid and shoaly, but it is much more thickly settled than it is any where below. The inhabitants are nearly all Mexicans, and are a harmless and inoffensive race. A good road runs up the bank of the river to Santa Fē, which is one of the remotest settlements upon the river. The trade of this country will be immense, and the whole of it will come to this Republic. I shall not attempt to give even the names of the numerous towns and villas upon this part of the river—most of them are mere hamlets, and contain not more than two or three families. Sibilleda, Xacales, Valencia, Alberquerque, San Diego, and Santa Fē are the principal ones. The valley of the Rio Grande, above the mouth of the Puerco, contains a population of three hundred thousand souls.

COUNTIES AND COUNTY SEATS.

THE Republic of Texas is divided into thirty-two counties. The following are their names, and the names of the county seats.

<i>Counties.</i>			<i>Seats.</i>
JEFFERSON,	:	:	Beaumont.
JASPER,	:	:	Jasper.
SABINE,	:	:	Milam.
SAN AUGUSTINE,	:	:	San Augustine.
SHELBY,	:	:	Shelbyville.
HARRISON,	:	:	Harrison.
RED RIVER,	:	:	Clarksville.
FANNIN,	:	:	Fannin.
GALVESTON,	:	:	Galveston.
LIBERTY,	:	:	Liberty.
HOUSTON,	:	:	Crockett.
NACOGDOCHES,	:	:	Nacogdoches.
HARRIS,	:	:	Houston.
MONTGOMERY,	:	:	Montgomery.
ROBERTSON,	:	:	Franklin.
BRAZORIA,	:	:	Brazoria.
FORT BEND,	:	:	Richmond.
AUSTIN,	:	:	San Felipe.
WASHINGTON,	:	:	Washington.
MILAM,	:	:	Nashville.
MATAGORDA,	:	:	Matagorda.

COLORADO,	:	:	:	Columbus.
FAYETTE,	:	:	:	Lagrange.
BASTROP,	:	:	:	Bastrop.
TRAVIS,	:	:	:	City of Austin.
JACKSON,	:	:	:	Texana.
VICTORIA,	:	:	:	Victoria.
GONZALES,	:	:	:	Gonzales.
REFUGIO,	:	:	:	Refugio.
GOLIAD,	:	:	:	Goliad.
BEXAR,	:	:	:	San Antonio.
SAN PATRICIO,	:	:	:	San Patricio.

GENERAL REMARKS.

TEXAS contains more rich cotton and sugar land than all of the United States put together, and the climate is decidedly more favorable.—Cotton may be planted from two to three weeks earlier in the spring than it can in Mississippi; and the picking season in the fall continues much later—the soil is much more productive than the best Mississippi or Louisiana land: and the planter may reasonably calculate upon saving one third more than he could in those states.

Hands may be supported in Texas at a much cheaper rate than they can in any portion of the United States. Besides cultivating more cotton than they can save, they can raise more corn than can be consumed upon a plantation, and

stock is so easily raised that horses and mules, cattle and hogs scarcely cost the planter a moment's thought—they keep fat at all seasons of the year upon our luxuriant prairies, and it is the planters, own fault if he has to purchase anything for the use of his plantation; \$500 invested in stock will support a plantation of fifty negroes.

Nor are the inducements less flattering to the farmer who has to depend upon the labor of his own hands. Our rapidly increasing population furnishes an abundant market for grain, cattle, and hogs: and if that market should ever fail, we can, more easily than any other country, supply the whole West India market.

Lands that would cost from five dollars to *fifty* in the United States, can here be purchased at from twenty-five cents to five dollars per acre, and undisputed titles given. But persons wishing to emigrate to this country should not purchase *unlocated* lands in the United States, nor even lands that are located, unless it is from an individual in whom he has the utmost confidence. And even then, the best way will be to come to the country, seek, examine and purchase for themselves. A person who will pursue this course cannot fail of being well pleased.

To the mechanic the inducements are equally flattering. He can procure the highest price for his labor, and meets with the promptest payment.

I have endeavored in this work to give a plain unvarnished description of the whole surface of the country—so that the emigrant, may read, and at once decide what portion of the country will

suit him best; that in making a selection of a residence, he might first visit the portions of the Republic which are most in accordance with his taste.

More than one half of the Republic of Texas is yet unlocated public domain—and that portion is the most beautiful and fertile portion of the country. But most of it is more or less exposed to depredations from the Indians—not so much so as to restrain one of our frontier settlers, but it might restrain persons who are entirely unacquainted with the character of Texas Indians. But we have a portion of territory five hundred miles in length and more than two hundred in breadth in which there is no more danger from Indian difficulties than there is in the Atlantic States of the North American union. But I shall give a more extended account of the different Indian tribes in its proper place.

Persons emigrating from the United States can bring as many negro slaves with them as they wish, and hold them upon the same term that they held them in the slave holding states of the union. But it is the only country from which they can be introduced; and the law cannot be evaded by indenting the slaves to their masters, who emigrate from any other country. Negroes cannot be introduced into this country in any other way but as slaves—and consequently they could not come as apprentices indentured for a term of years.

A free negro cannot even be allowed to live in the country, without a special enactment of Con-

gress—a privilege which is very rarely extended. The privilege of remaining in the country has not been extended to more than five or six negroes: all of those sustained good characters, and had rendered important services to the country during the revolution; and for them the privilege was procured with great difficulty. But free white persons, from every country, are put upon an equal footing: no tedious naturalization laws are required; and whether the emigrant is from the United States, Europe, or other countries, if he is a free white person, he can hold land, and is entitled to all privileges of citizenship, when he has declared his intention of becoming a citizen, and remained within the limits of the Republic for six months.

Our government is similar to the government of the United States—except ours is a consolidated instead of a confederated republic. Our courts are as well organised, and the administration of justice is as certain as it is in the United States. The English common law, modified by statutes, is the rule of action both in criminal and civil proceedings.

The society in this Republic is much better than it is supposed to be, by the people of the States; and a smile is not unfrequently provoked at the expense of the young man who comes from that country loaded down with pistols and knives. The wearing of concealed weapons is so unusual in this country, that any person who wears them, is sure to become an object of suspicion.

Every portion of Texas, south of Red river,

will produce the best kind of cotton; and for more than one hundred miles from the coast, it is not surpassed by any country for the production of sugar—above that point, small grain: rye, oats, barley, and wheat, wherever it has been tried, may be produced in great abundance. Every portion of the country produces good Indian corn, and horses, mules, cattle, and hogs may be raised with great profit in every portion of the Republic.

Peaches, plums, apricots, and figs are raised upon every portion of the country—oranges and lemons upon the coast, and apples in the interior.

OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT, 1840.

Mirabeau B. Lamar, President of the Republic.

David G. Burnet, Vice President.

Abner S. Lipscomb, Secretary of State.

James H. Starr, Secretary of the Treasury.

Branch T. Archer, Secretary of War.

Louis P. Cooke, Secretary of the Navy.

James Webb, Attorney General.

John Rice Jones, Post Master General.

Asa Brigham, Treasurer.

John P. Borden, Commis'r Gen'l of Land Office.

Charles Mason, First Auditor.

Musgrove Evans, Second Auditor.

J. W. Simmons, Comptroller.

Hugh McLeod, Adjutant and Inspector General.

William G. Cooke, Quarter Master General.

Jacob Snively, Pay Master General.

Wm. L. Cazneau, Commis'y Gen'l Subsistence.
 William R. Smith, Surgeon General.
 E. Lawrence Stickney, Comm'ner of Revenue.
 Memucan Hunt, Commis'r to run boundary line.
 George W. Smith, Surveyor " "
 Hamilton P. Bee, Clerk " "

SUPREME COURT.

THE SUPREME COURT is to be holden annually, at the seat of government, and commences on the second Monday in January. It is composed of the Chief Justice and the Judges of the Circuit Courts, as associate Justices.

OFFICERS.

Thomas J. Rusk, Chief Justice.
 William F. Gray, Clerk.
 George W. Horton, Reporter.

CIRCUIT COURTS.

THE REPUBLIC is divided into seven judicial districts. The law makes it necessary that each Judge shall reside at some place within his own district. The following is a list of the Judges and their places of residence.

1. Anthony B. Shelby, Galveston.
2. W. Jefferson Jones, Matagorda.
3. John T. Mills, Washington.
4. John Hemphill, San Antonio.
5. Edward T. Branch, Nacogdoches.
6. Richardson Scurry, Shelbyville.
7. John M. Hansford, Clarksville.

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS,
FIRST DISTRICT.

Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery and Harris. The District Court for the county of Galveston is held on the first Mondays of March and October, and may continue three weeks.

In the county of Liberty on the fourth Mondays of March and October, and may continue two weeks.

In the county of Montgomery on the fourth Mondays after the fourth Mondays of March and October, and may continue two weeks.

In the county of Harris on the sixth Mondays after the fourth Mondays of March and October, and may continue till the business is disposed of.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Brazoria, Fort Bend, Austin, Colorado, and Matagorda.

The District Court for Matagorda county shall be holden on the first Mondays of March and October, and may continue two weeks.

In Fort Bend on the second Mondays after the fourth Mondays in March and October, and may continue two weeks.

In Austin on the fourth Mondays after the fourth Mondays of March and October, and may continue one week.

In Colorado on the fifth Mondays after the fourth Mondays in March and October, and may continue till the business is disposed of.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Washington, Robertson, Milam, Fayette, Bastrop, and Travis.

The District Court for Washington shall be holden on the first Mondays of March and October, and may continue three weeks.

In Robertson on the fourth Mondays of March and October, and may continue two weeks.

In Milam on the second Mondays after the fourth Mondays in March and October, and may continue one week.

In Fayette on the third Mondays after the fourth Mondays in March and October, and may continue one week.

In Bastrop on the fourth Mondays after the fourth Mondays of March and October, and may continue two weeks.

In the county of Travis on the second Monday after the first Monday of the term at Bastrop, and may continue till the business is disposed of.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Bexar, Gonzales, Jackson, Victoria, Refugio, Goliad, and San Patricio.

The courts shall be holden in the county of Bexar on the second Monday in September, and may continue in session until the Friday before the first Monday in October; and on the third Monday after the fourth Monday of March.

In Gonzales on the first Mondays in October and March and may continue in session one week.

In Jackson on the second Monday of March and October, and may continue six days.

In Victoria on the third Mondays of March and October, and may continue six days.

In Refugio on the first Monday after the fourth Monday in March; and on the fourth Monday in October and may continue in session six days.

In Goliad on the fourth Mondays of March and October, and may continue in session six days.

In San Patricio on the second Mondays after the fourth Monday of March and October, and may continue six days.

FIFTH DISTRICT.

Houston, Nacogdoches, San Augustine.

The district court for Houston shall be holden on the third Mondays of February and August, and may continue two weeks.

In Nacogdoches on the second Mondays after the third Mondays of March and September, and may continue three weeks.

In San Augustine on the fourth Mondays of March and September, and may continue until the business is disposed of.

SIXTH DISTRICT.

Jefferson, Jasper, Sabine, Shelby.

The district courts for the county of Jefferson shall be holden on the third Mondays of March

and September, and may continue in session two weeks.

In Jasper on the first Mondays after the fourth Mondays in March and September, and may continue two weeks.

In Sabine on the third Mondays after the fourth Mondays in March and September, and may continue three weeks.

In Shelby on on the fifth Mondays after the fourth Mondays in March and September, and may continue until the business is disposed of.

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

Harrison, Red River, Fannin.

The district courts for the county of Harrison, shall be holden on the first Mondays of March and September, and may continue two weeks.

In Red River on the fourth Mondays of March and September, and may continue four weeks.

In Fannin on the fifth Mondays after the fourth Mondays of March and September and may continue until the business is disposed of.

INDIAN TRIBES.

COMANCHES.—The principal tribe of Indians in Texas is the Comanches. They reside in the north-western portion of the territory—if a predatory, wandering life may be called a residence. The whole tribes number about twenty thousand souls: of these, not more than five thousand ever visit the territory of Texas; and not more than fifteen hundred reside south of the Red river. Of the latter, there are about four hundred warriors—the rest are women, children, and old men.

They are a wandering race, having no settled residence, but following the buffalo from place to place. They do not pretend to cultivate the soil, but derive their support from the buffalo, and what they can steal from other people. As for honesty and integrity they know not the meaning of the word—they are a nation of robbers, and would at any time murder a man for the value of one farthing, provided they could do it without running any risk of danger themselves. But they go upon the principle that the life of one Comanche is worth more than the destruction of any number of their enemies, and they never make an attack unless they can do

it with entire impunity. Acting on this principle, they will use every exertion in their power to throw a man off his guard, by making the most extravagant professions of friendship, while they are plotting schemes for his destruction.

They think intrigue to be far more praise worthy than valor; and if a traveller can be murdered in his sleep, the author of his destruction gains more glory than if he had taken a scalp in open combat. A single traveller has been known to keep fifty of them at bay, and make his escape, by presenting his rifle when they advance upon him; but they will attack any number who become alarmed and attempt a flight. In this way they have destroyed a few of our people; but there is not an instance on record in which they have killed even one man, who faced them boldly. Their attacks are generally made on horse back, and in the open prairie. A Comanche is mighty in a rout—but a great coward in a charge, and will never fight if there be any possibility of running: if hemmed, like other wild beasts, they will some times fight desperately.

They have never been known to attack even the solitary house of a settler, and their warfare is generally confined to the stealing of horses and cattle. They steal slyly into the settlement, in the dead of night, and take such property as they can get off with impunity, and if, in the meantime, they come across an unarmed man, they make no scruple to murder him. They show no distinction of nations in their thefts: will steal

alike from the European, American, Mexican, or other Indian tribes. If an unprotected traveller comes across a band of Comanches, they will receive him kindly; but the first opportunity they get, they will murder him in his sleep. If an unfortunate sailor is shipwrecked, and thrown upon their coast, he only escapes the dangers of the waves to meet a more certain fate from those ruthless savages.

While in a state of open war with them, our frontier settlements are in no danger: they then fear the consequences and keep at a distance.— They have made hundreds of treaties with the Mexican government, which have not been observed as long as the parties were signing the instruments. In the year 1829 or '30, four treaties were made and violated, at San Antonio, by the Comanches in one week's time—and the expression, "*as faithless as a Comanche treaty*," has passed into a proverb in that country. Nor is our own experience less instructive upon this subject: for more than three years, a Comanche had not been seen upon our frontier—but at last two of the chiefs ventured into San Antonio, to make a treaty. They were received with kindness, and dismissed with presents. A few of our people attended them on their return to their tribe—they were robbed of nearly every thing, and would, in all probability, have been murdered, but were spared in hopes of a greater prize.

In May, 1838, a party of them came into Houston, and the President, Gen. Houston, entered into a formal treaty with them, giving them many

presents, among which were several valuable *rifles, with other arms and ammunition!*

About the same time, a party made their appearance at San Antonio, who also made a treaty, and received many presents from this government. From that moment our difficulties commenced. Capt. Love and fourteen other Americans, who visited their country, some of them for the purpose of trading, and others to see the country, fell a sacrifice to their treachery and duplicity, and were inhumanly murdered and robbed.

Shortly after they met with Capt. Cage and Mr. Campbell on the Medina—they made every profession of friendship, and neither Cage nor Campbell, suspected treachery, until Mr. Campbell received a fatal stab in the side, and Capt. Cage a severe one in his right arm.—Wounded as he was, he presented his rifle, and sixty of the craven wretches were put to flight. Captain Cage retreated slowly, with his gun presented to the Indians, and joined his companions who were four miles off.

The affair at San Antonio followed in October or November, and ten of our fellow citizens fell victims in one day—and yet many talked of treaties and friendly relations with the Indians; even the Comanches. But the time was rapidly arriving when a change was to come over the policy of this government in relation to Indian affairs. And during the summer of 1839 and the winter of '40, they were met by our brave volunteers, and regulars, and severely chastised on every occasion. The consequence was that

they fled to the wilderness, and scarcely a depredation was committed upon our frontier.

But again they tried recourse to a treaty, thinking that species of fraud and deception which had so often succeeded would again avail: but our people had grown wise by experience, and the President had given orders to have two companies of regular troops to attend the *talk*.—A few of their chiefs had been in, several times, and promised to bring in the whole of their tribe, and all the American prisoners, preparatory to making a treaty. On the 19th of March, 1840, a party of sixty-five made their appearance in the city of San Antonio, but only brought one American prisoner, a Miss Lockhart, who was immediately taken from them and placed with an American family. She is a very intelligent girl of about thirteen or fourteen years of age, and exposed their whole secret to Colonels Wm. G. Cooke, and Hugh McLeod, who had been deputed on the part of this government to conduct the treaty.

She stated that there had been several other American prisoners (women and children—they never spare the lives of men) a few days before they started in—and that they had been sent off to another camp—that if they procured a large price for her, they intended to bring in the rest one by one, in hopes of procuring a large supply of arms and ammunition for their ransom.

Being provided with these facts Col's. Cooke and McLeod, assisted by Lt. Col. Fisher of the regular infantry, commenced the talk. The In-

dians admitted that they had been guilty of fraud, falsehood, and treachery, and offered nothing in extenuation of their crime. When they were asked why they had not brought in the prisoners, they said that they had brought in the only one they had—that the others were with another tribe. This, from the previous information of Miss Lockhart, was known to be false; and the Indians were informed of the fact. They admitted it, but only offered new promises—but Lt. Col. Fisher had been ordered to have the two companies of regular infantry under his command in readiness, and they had been marched up to the council house.

The Indians were then told definitively, that they would be detained as hostages, till all the Texian prisoners were brought in. The Indians knowing their guilt, dreaded the consequences, and made a furious charge at the door. Capt. Howard whose company was formed in the front of the house was attacked at the door by the chief Mue-war-rah, who inflicted upon him a severe wound in the side. The Indian, while endeavoring to kill Capt. Howard, was shot down by the sentinel.

At the same time, the Indians, who were in the rear of the house, made a furious attack upon the company of Capt. Redd. Capt. Howard, on account of the severity of the wound which he had received, was relieved by Capt. Gillen. For a time, our troops only attempted to repel the Indians' charge, but at last the order was given to *fire*. The order was obeyed with such spirit and effect

that but very few of them succeeded in making their escape from the city. Those were followed by Col. Wells of the 1st. regiment cavalry, and a party of citizens, and all killed except a renegade Mexican, who succeeded in making his escape. Thirty-five were killed, and thirty, mostly women and children and old men, were taken prisoners. Thus terminated the last treaty which should ever be attempted to be made with this perfidious race.

The loss on our side was lieutenant William M. Dunnington; Judge Hood, of San Antonio; Judge Thompson, of Houston; Mr. Cayce, of Matagorda county; and three privates.

Wounded—Captains George T. Howard and Matthew Caldwell, Lieut. Edward A. Thompson, and one private of first infantry: citizens, Judge Robinson, Messrs. Higginbotham, Carson, and Morgan.

At the same time that the Comanches went in to make a treaty at San Antonio, a party came in to steal horses in the vicinity of the city of Austin, and killed two laboring men at a little distance from the city.

The Comanches are a nation of cannibals, and the unfortunate victim who falls into their hands, is not unfrequently devoured with as little ceremony as the buffalo. They are the most superstitious people in the world: they believe in charms and witchcraft, and not unfrequently sacrifice human offerings to appease the anger of their gods.

Their system of government is the most perfect

democracy on the face of the earth. A chief is created or deposed at pleasure: even children may rebel against their parents, who have no right to punish them without a vote of the tribe. A mother forfeits her life if she strikes her male child, however young he may be; because a *warrior* or *brave* must be bred up in all the savage ferocity of his nature. But a male may beat a woman, or even take her life, with impunity. They in turn beat their female children with the utmost severity; and are the cruelest tormentors of the unhappy prisoners who may chance to fall into their hands.

CARANCAHUAS.—The Carancahuas are a small band of Indians who reside on the western portion of the coast—and are generally found about the La Baca bay or the Aransas. They have once been a very powerful nation—and were more celebrated for their bravery than any other tribe of the south-western Indians; but their continued wars with Mexico and the wild Indians and the early American settlers of this country have reduced them to a mere handful, and their spirits have met with a corresponding depression. They do not now number more than one hundred souls, with twenty-five warriors. It is not known that they have for the last eight years committed any depredations upon this country, and they have become quite useful to the western people in procuring venison, fish, &c. with which they furnish them in great abundance.

TONKAHUAS.—The Tonkahuas are a small wandering tribe of about three hundred in num-

ber, and about seventy-five or eighty warriors. They reside within our settlements and profess friendship to our people, and have rendered some service in our wars against the wild Indians. But their natural proneness to steal, will manifest itself whenever they have a good opportunity, and if they get a chance to steal, they are sure to avail themselves of it. There has been a long and deadly feud between them and the Comanches, and they never meet but as enemies. They are consequently entirely dependent upon the indulgence of the white people; but neither fear nor interest can restrain them from their natural inclinations of theft and plunder. All of our north-western Indians are cannibals; and human flesh is not only devoured as a religious ceremony, but frequently as a substitute for other food.

LIPANS.—The Lipans are the most intelligent and respectable of all the native Texas Indians, and that is saying but very little in favor of their reputation. The tribe is about one hundred and fifty in number, with about sixty-five or seventy warriors. Their general residence is upon the Nueces—but they have been for some time in the service of this country against the wild Indians. Like all the Indians of this country, they are treacherous and deceitful, and it is believed they have committed many depredations while professing to be our friends. Like the Tonkahuas, they are the hereditary enemies of the Comanches, and cannot fly to the wilderness, and can easily be destroyed by this country.

whenever their depredations assume a posture which will justify it.

BEDIES.—The Bedies are an inoffensive, harmless race, who reside upon the waters of the San Jacinto river. They do not number more than from eighteen to twenty-five, and support themselves by hunting and fishing. They never engage in war; but have frequently fallen victims to the more warlike tribes. This has induced them to seek a refuge among the white people.—But they have no objection to stealing—a profession at which they are particularly expert.

TOWACANIES—A small tribe residing on Pecan bayou, a branch of the Colorado, entering that river from the east, about sixty miles above the falls. They take their name from Towacanie, a disaffected Comanche chief, who flourished about thirty years back. The whole tribe amounts to about five hundred, with perhaps one hundred warriors. They, like their ancestors, are a nation of thieves and robbers, and neither their habits nor courage has improved by their separation from the Comanches. Stealing horses is their principal business; and to be expert at it, is looked upon as the highest accomplishment among them. Their depredations have been mostly confined to the country bordering on the Colorado and Brazos rivers. They rarely attack the house of even a single settler, but content themselves with the murder of the unprotected traveller, and the stealing of horses. No attempt at a treaty has been made with this tribe.

WACOES.—The Wacoes inhabit the country bordering on the Brazos above the falls. They range as far west as the Colorado, and sometimes as far east as the Trinity river. They, also, are a branch of the Comanches, who have separated from that nation, carrying with them their habits of duplicity and treachery. They number about four hundred and fifty souls, with perhaps one hundred warriors.

PAWNEE PICTS, OR TOWEASHES—Reside on Red river: they are sometimes in the United States, and sometimes in Texas. That portion of the tribe which visits this country amounts to about three hundred souls, with sixty or seventy-five warriors. They are in alliance with the Wacoes and Caddoes, and their depredations are generally confined to the upper Brazos country.

The tribes already spoken of, compose the whole strength of the native Indians of Texas, except about four thousand Appachies, who reside high up the Rio Grande, so far removed from our settlements, that they never visit them.

THE CHEROKEES AND THEIR TWELVE ASSOCIATE BANDS.—The Cherokees and their twelve associate bands are all tribes from the United States. They consist of the Cherokees, Shawnees, Delawares, Kickapoos, Quapaus, Choctaws, Boluxies, Iawanies, Alabamas, Cooshattas, Caddoes, Tahookatookies, and Unataquas.

Most of these tribes came into this country between 1822 and 1824; but the Cooshattas and Alabamas came at a much earlier period. They were intruders upon the soil, and came without

the authority of Mexico. The weakness and imbecility of that government, however, was such that they were unable to expel them, and they remained in the country until the revolution broke out which separated Texas from Mexico.

Colonel Bowls, the Cherokee chief, was the nominal head and organ of all these bands. He was a shrewd and intelligent man—his father a Scotchman and his mother a Cherokee Indian—and possessed much more intelligence than any other member of any of the tribes. He made great exertions to procure a grant of the land they occupied, to the different tribes; but his exertions were not attended with success. But just before the Texian revolution broke out, the Mexican government determined to humble the people of the colony of Texas, and knew no better means than to make use of the Indians for that purpose. They therefore held out inducements that they might at a future period give them a grant to the land they occupied; but the grant was not perfected at the time the revolution broke out.

But the oppressions of the Mexican government had reached such a height, and the opposition of the colonists had become so general, that the people of this country were not to be restrained either by Mexican invasion or Indian depredations; and on the sixteenth of October, 1835, the delegates of the colonies met in consultation at San Felipe. This consultation was not clothed with plenary powers, but met to-

gether for the purpose of devising what could be done for the use of the colonies. The difficulties, however, appeared to thicken, and the consultation, from the necessity of the case, assumed almost unlimited power.

Gen. Sam Houston, who was a member of this body, set forth the claims of the Cherokees and the twelve associate bands in the strongest light; and procured the passage of a pledge to them that they should be secured in all the lands which they had held under the Mexican government. The consultation appointed Gen. Sam Houston and John Forbes, of Naeogdoches, to hold a treaty with the Cherokees and their aforesaid twelve associate bands, who met Col. Bows and Big Mush, and some others on the part of the Indians on the 23rd day of February 1836, at the Bowl's village, and entered into a formal treaty with them. By this treaty the Cherokees and their associate bands received a fee simple title to all the land lying "west of the San Antonio road, and beginning on the west, at the point where the said road crosses the river Angeline, and running up said river until it reaches the mouth of the first large creek, below the great Shawnee village, emptying into the said river from the north-east—thence running with said creek to its main source, and from thence a due north line to the Sabine, and with said river west. Then starting where the San Antonio road crosses the Angeline, and with said road to where it crosses the Neches, and thence running up the east side of said river in a north-west direction."

The above boundaries are somewhat vague, but it is a literal extract from the treaty.

This treaty produced general dissatisfaction throughout the country; insomuch that its advocates were afraid to bring the treaty before the convention, which was really clothed with plenary powers and assembled at Washington on the 1st of March 1835. That convention declared our independence, and the defeat of a portion of the Mexican army and the expulsion of the other part, soon followed; and peace again reigned throughout our border. Gen. Sam Houston was elevated to the presidential chair in November following, and all the weight of executive influence was brought to bear in favor of the Cherokee treaty, but the deep settled opposition of the country was too manifest, and it was formally rejected on the 16th day of Dec., 1837, by the senate, in secret session.

In the mean time the conduct of the Indians was not calculated to allay the prejudices which already existed against them; and constant alarms and murders existed upon our eastern frontier; and though the Cherokees were generally shrewd enough to fix the depredations upon other tribes, it was believed by many of the eastern people that they were our principal enemies in that quarter. But the president ceased not in his exertions in their behalf—and used every exertion in his power to induce the government to ratify the treaty and secure to them their land. But his exertions were unavailing, and the government steadily refused to ratify the claim of the

Cherokees and their associate bands, to the land they occupied.

The Cherokees, in the mean time, were carrying on a negociation with the Mexican government and had come to an agreement by which they were not only to have the territory spoken of in the treaty of the twenty-third of February, 1835, but the whole territory of Texas, if they could succeed in dispossessing the American population. They formed a treaty with the Mexican government by which they were to make one united effort for the destruction of this country. This fact is spoken of in a letter from General Stephen F. Austin, then secretary of state, to William H. Wharton, commissioner of this Republic to the court at Washington, dated Columbia, nineteenth December, 1836, and now on file in the state department.

The Hon. James P. Henderson, secretary of state, mentions the same fact in a letter to Mr. Wharton and General Hunt, our ministers at Washington, dated, Columbia, January 21st, 1837; and Doctor R. A. Irion refers to the same subject, in a letter to Mr. Labranche, the American chargé d'affairs, dated January fifth, 1838. These letters are all on file in the state department.

But this over powering testimony against the Indians did not change the position of the president in their behalf: he still contended that the Indians were entitled to an absolute fee simple title to the land, and used every exertion in his power to procure a ratification of their claim.

But a crisis was rapidly approaching in the east which was calculated to remove the veil which had too long covered their misdeeds, and hold them up to the world in all the depravity of their nature. The Cherokees and their twelve associate tribes had long been in correspondence with the Mexicans, and had formed a league with the Mexican inhabitants about Nacogdoches to make a simultaneous attack upon the American population. They had procured a large quantity of arms and ammunition for that purpose, and had brought over large numbers of Cherokees, Creeks, and Seminoles, from the United States, to join in their attack upon this country. Bowls, in the pride of his ambition and the confidence of success, already looked to the possession of the whole country. But an accident brought their plan to light, a little before they had matured it. Some of the Cherokees and Mexicans, having a good opportunity to steal some horses, could not forego the tempting prize. They were pursued by the owners of the horses and traced to their general rendezvous, in the Angeline swamp. This produced a considerable excitement in the east, and our citizen soldiers flew to arms. A large force assembled under the command of Major-General Thomas J. Rusk, and the Indians suddenly dispersed, and the renegade Mexicans were driven from the country. Cordova, the chief of the Mexican rebels, with his party, took shelter with the Indians.

In October, 1838, Major-General Rusk had a

fight with them, near the old Kickapoo village. The Indians made the attack in the night, but were completely routed, with a considerable loss. General Rusk pursued his campaign, and led his troops through the whole Indian territory, but was not able again to bring them to battle: the Mexicans had left and the Indians dispersed, and peace again appeared to reign upon our border.

The president, in the mean time, had given orders to Colonel Alexander Horton to have the Cherokee boundary line run, according to the terms of the treaty of February, 1836. This was known to be in direct violation of the will of the country, so often expressed through congress: but General Houston was actuated by that frankness *which has always characterized his course towards the Indians.* But all of his kindness and precaution could not quiet them; and early in the spring of 1839, they again broke out.

The Cherokees had committed so many depredations upon our people, and succeeded so well in palming them off upon the wild Indians, that General Lamar, after his elevation to the presidency, determined to deprive them longer of this excuse.

For this purpose Maj. Walters was ordered to raise two companies of six months volunteers and occupy the saline of the Neches. He was informed by Bowls that any attempt to carry his orders into effect would produce ~~immediate~~ immediate hostilities on his part. This, and the many other known crimes and misdemeanors on the part of the Cherokees, determined the president to re-

move them from our border; and the agent was directed to inform them that they must make preparations to leave early in the fall. They were told that they would be paid for all their improvements, and the property which they found it necessary to leave. They appeared to assent to every thing and admitted the justness of the decision; said that they knew they had no legal right to the land, and made no objections to returning to the United States, on receiving payment for their improvements.

But while they were making those outward professions, they were using every exertion to prepare for war. For this purpose Cordova, the rebel Mexican chief and his second in command, Manuel Flores, with a party of Indians and Mexicans started to Matamoras for arms and ammunition. Their trail was discovered by a party of rangers near Austin on the Colorado, and they were instantly pursued by Col. Burleson with a party of volunteers from the Colorado river, attacked and nearly all destroyed. The remnant however went on, and after procuring a large quantity of powder and ball, they started on their return. But again the vigilant rangers of the Colorado detected their footsteps, and they were pursued by a small party, overtaken, and defeated; the leader of the party was killed and all of their baggage taken, among which was a large quantity of powder and lead. The correspondence and instruction of Capt. Manuel Flores was taken, and thus the whole treachery of the Cherokees was at once exposed. Bowls and the oth-

er chiefs were directed to pretend friendship to the Americans, but, through their emisaries, to keep up a continual hostility upon our frontier, in order to retard our settlements and prevent the improvement of the country; and were promised aid as soon as the Mexicans could dispose of their difficulties with France.

With these proofs staring him in the face, it would have been madness on the part of the Executive longer to have suffered them to remain in the heart of the country, and he determined to change his original intention, and provide for their immediate removal beyond our border.

General A. Sidney Johnston, secretary of war; Hon. David G. Burnet, vice president; Thomas J. Rusk, chief-justice; Hon. Isaac W. Burton, and James S. Mayfield, esq., were appointed commissioners to treat with them for an immediate removal. But as difficulties in this removal were anticipated, the Houston, Shelby, and San Augustine volunteers, under the command of Colonel Landrum; a regiment from Nacogdoches, under the command of Colonel Thomas J. Rusk; a portion of the first regiment, regular infantry, under the command of Colonel Burleson; and two companies of Harrisburg volunteers, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Woodlief, were ordered to that point.

The Indians assented to the justness of the course that had been pursued towards them, and professed their willingness to depart; and every thing appeared to be progressing in an amicable manner. Bowls said he had never had a title to

the land, and he knew he had no legal right to occupy the country, and expressed his entire willingness to leave. But while he was making such professions of peace, he was preparing for war, and all hopes of a peaceful termination failed, and on the fifteenth of July, 1839, this fact was announced to General Johnston, secretary of war, and he gave orders to General Douglass, who had been placed in the command of the troops, to advance upon the Indians. He came up with them on the evening of the fifteenth of July, and a battle ensued, in which the Indians were defeated with considerable loss. They retreated, but were pursued, overtaken on the sixteenth, and again badly defeated. In this battle, Colonel Bows, the principal dependance of the Indians, was killed, and the whole tribes dispersed. The loss of the Indians in these fights, as near as could be ascertained, was fifty-five killed and eighty wounded, many of whom afterwards died of their wounds.

Ours was five killed and about twenty-five wounded, all of whom recovered. Among the wounded were Colonel McLeod, Colonel Augustine, and Colonel Rusk.

In those battles the Indians had collected all their forces, and procured many volunteers from their friends in the United States, and confidently expected victory. But they met with the same fate which they always have when they have encountered our troops.

They dispersed in every direction, and have not since made their appearance, except in very

small parties. Those battles were of great importance to our country. In the short time of twenty days, a campaign had been projected, and brought to a successful termination, which cleared our country of a band of faithless savages of more than three thousand in number, which had been for years the annoyance of our eastern frontier. In its effects it produced the most beneficial results, and relieved the east from the fears of Indian depredations. A portion of them fled across Red river, and joined their companions in the U. States: the remainder are scattered in small parties at a distance from our settlements, and very little danger is to be apprehended from their depredations.

The chain of block houses which is shortly to be thrown across our northern and western frontier, and the other improvement in a state of progress by the war department, will be an effectual barrier against any depredations which are to be apprehended from Indian difficulties, and the emigrant may assure himself of as much safety, in any of the settled portions of this republic, as he could in the Atlantic states.