to speak to us of slavery; we shall be inexorable, perhaps even cruel, towards all the troops who, themselves, forgetting the object for which they have not ceased fighting since 1789, should come yet from Europe, to carry among us death and servitude. Nothing is too dear, and every means are lawful, to men from whom it is wished to tear the first of all blessings. Were they to cause rivers and torrents of blood to run; were they, in order to maintain their liberty, to conflagrate the seven eighths of the globe, the innocent before the tribunal of Providence, that has not created men, to see them groaning under a hard and shameful servitude.

If in the various insurrections that took place, some inhabitants, against whom we had not to complain, have been victims of the cruelty of a few soldiers or cultivators, too much blinded by the remembrance of their past sufferings, to be able to distinguish the good and humane landholders from those that were unfeeling and cruel; we lament with all feeling souls so deplorable an end, and declare to the world, whatever may be said to the contrary by wicked people, that these murders were committed contrary to the wishes of our hearts. It was impossible especially in the crisis in which the colony was, to be able to prevent or stop these horrors. They who are in the least acquainted with history, all know that a people, when assailed by civil dissentions, though they may be the most polished on earth, give themselves up to all kinds of excess, and the authority of the chiefs always but poorly consolidated in a time of revolution, cannot punish all those that are guilty, without always meeting with new difficulties. But now a days the aurora of peace lets us have the glimpse of a less stormy time, now that the calm of victory has succeeded to the troubles of a dreadful war, every thing in St. Domingo ought to assume a new face and its government henceforward to be that of justice.

Done at the head-quarters, Fort Dauphin, November 29, 1803.

(Signed) DESSALINES, CHRISTOPHE, and CLERVEAUX.

True copy, B. AMIR, Sec'y.

New York, January 5.

The editors of the New-York Gazette are indebted to capt. Symonds, from New-Orleans, for the French proclamation and two arretes, published at New-Orleans, on their taking possession of that place. The substance of the arretes follows:

"Laussat, colonial prefect, having learned that the militia of New-Orleans, which, under the Spanish dominion were commanded by officers of his Catholic majesty, and on the surrender of Louisiana they were left without an etat major (staff officers) which deficiency it is necessary to supply.

"It is decreed, that Mr. Bellachasse be named colonial commandant of the militia of New-Orleans, and inspector of the companies of free blacks and free people of color."

The other contains an address to the French citizens at Louisiana, in these words:

"The French flag is this day flying before your eyes: it reminds you in the distant territory, of your combats, your victories and your valor. It in vain seeks the accustomed rampart of those formidable bayonets that surrounded it, and which crowned it with so much power and glory. But, supported by an ally loyal and faithful, it will be guarded by the Louisianians, those worthy children of our forefathers: it will be effected by your presence, by your respect, by your love. This is the cherished standard of our re-union, French citizens, and (the prefect) swear before it in your name and upon your honor, that though its continuance is but short in these countries, it will by your concurrence and efforts, leave a long remembrance of those days of tranquility, order and concord, of which it constantly gives proofs, and signalize their duration.

(Signed, &c.)

A RUNAWAY.

ABSCONDED on the 26th of December last for fear of being sold. A stout, strong, square built, black slave called CIMON; a well behaved and well looking fellow, about 26 years of age. In speaking to gentlemen he shows a sett of white teeth, appears diffident and even somewhat agitated. He carries no scar nor mark of any injury—Having worked in a blacksmiths shop his hands are very rough; he came from Mrs. Eden's estate in St Mary's county, and was there called Peter; his clothing was new and strong; the jacket and overalls of grey kersey. He had a long blue broad cloth coat, and a pair of overalls of the same kind of cloth; the coat and overalls had yellow metal buttons, with the figure of a spread eagle on them. His brother Harry (slave to Miss Grace Stone who has been hired in the city of Washington) has a strong resemblance to Cimon. I offer Ten Dollars reward for delivering Cimon to me, or confining him in any jail. And if found out of the county the additional reward of one quarter of a dollar for every mile he may be brought.

M. I. STONE.

Charles county, Jan. 13——1aw3w

National Intelligencer.

We are indebted for the following interesting information, respecting LOUISIANA to Mr. Winston, a representative from North Carolina.

A LETTER

FROM

DR. JOHN SIBLEY,

Late of Fayetteville,

(NOW OF LOUISIANA,)

TO

J. GALES, PRINTER,

In Raleigh.

Louisiana, August 15, 1803.

DEAR SIR,

About twelve months ago I was called by some business to Natches: I took shipping at Charleston, landed at New-Orleans, and proceeded on to Natches by land, along the Mississippi. The distance is called 300 miles.

Not being able immediately to accomplish my business at Natches, I thoroughly explored the Mississippi territory. After which, finding my return to Carolina would be unavoidably protracted for some time, and hearing much of the country of Louisiana, I conceived the plan of taking a ramble thither. I therefore applied to the Spanish government, and obtained permission to travel through, and explore that country where I pleased.

For that purpose I left Natches the 5th of March last, and have been since that time through various parts of Louisiana, but principally on Red River. I have kept an accurate journal of my travels since I left Charleston, interspersed with notes and observations, which at this time is swelled to a considerable size.

A few days ago I received a letter from Governor Claiborne, of Natches, informing me of the cession of this country to the United States, which has made me the medium through which this important information has been communicated to the inhabitants of this part of Louisiana; nineteen-twentieths of whom are French, speak none but their native language, and understand but little of the government of the United States. My room has been crowded almost every day since I received Governor Claiborne's letter; some having heard the report, and wishing to learn the truth of it; others to obtain some knowledge of the American government, under which they expect soon to pass.

I have done all in my power to reconcile them to the change; and it has afforded me much satisfaction to observe the success of my efforts: though I have been astonished at the misrepresentations which have been spread among the people here, concerning the government of the United States, (by some Tory Americans who have found their way hither) which had excited prejudices that in some instances I found much difficulty to remove.

I have represented to the people, that while they were under an European government, they were held as an article of traffic, were bought and sold from one European power to another, as they buy and sell their cattle, mules and horses; that the Europeans were eternally at war with one another, and let them belong to which ever of these powers they would, they must be a party in their wars, and liable to be plundered by their enemies; and that they knew, by experience, how little an European colony had to expect, situated four or five thousand miles from the seat of government. Although this country has been settled nearly as long as Pennsylvania, and in many respects possessing superior advantages, how small is its progress in improvement, compared to that state! which difference is entirely to be attributed to the difference of government.

Without prejudice to the governments of France and Spain, I have represented to them the mildness of the American government. It interferes with no one's religion, but protects all. Its disposition to encourage commerce, agriculture, internal navigation, manufactures, arts and science; and that they will now be under a government that will never sell them, and that is able, and will always be willing to protect them, and whose finances are such, that they will not be oppressed with taxes.

As some description of this country, which will shortly become part of the United States, cannot fail to be interesting, I will give you some extracts from my journal respecting it, which must be in a very abridged manner, or it would too far exceed the bounds of a letter, which I hope has not already become tiresome, and which has no other recommendations, than the novelty of the subject, and a strict adherence to truth.

The island of Orleans, which forms part of Louisiana, is on the east side of the Mississippi river: the south end of it forms one part of the mouth of the river Balize, and is a point. It is bounded on the east by Spiritu Santo bay, the lakes Ponchartrain and Maurepas; and north by the Bayan Manchack, or which is sometimes called the river Iberville, which is dry when the Mississippi is low, but when that river is high, its waters break through the Bayan, falling into lake Maurepas, from thence to Ponchartrain, and from thence into Spiritu Santo bay. The length of this island is about 200 miles, and its breadth from 2 to 20. About the middle of it, on the bank of the Mississippi, is the town of New-Orleans. This town is regularly laid off; the streets are 50 feet wide, and intersected at right angles; the houses are principally of brick, some two, and some three stories high, many of them elegant with flat roofs. The town is more than half the size of Charleston, and several of its streets next the river, are as well built as any streets in Charleston: there is one large handsome church, a government-house, a nunnery, a theatre, and two hospitals; and contains about fifteen thousand inhabitants, four-fifths of whom are French.

About 40 miles above the Balize, and 65 below Orleans, the settlements begin, and are much alike on both sides of the river. Strung all along 40 or 50 yards from the river, behind the Seire or embankment, and (except at a point or turn) within half a mile of each other, and the cleared land extending back from half a mile to a mile and a half, and is generally bounded by a cypress swamp. The lands from the edge of the river back, gradually fall till they become too low to cultivate; it never can admit of but one row of settlements. These plantations are interchangeably planted in sugar cane, rice, corn, and cotton. Nothing can exceed the luxuriance of their crops. The population of the island of Orleans, including the town, may be estimated at 20.000 inhabitants. On the opposite side of the river is another island, in length about 170 miles, formed by the Bayan. La Fosh, which, like Manchack, is dry at low water, but at high water a large ship might conveniently pass through it. This Bayan falls into Vermillion bay, nearly 100 miles west of Orleans. All along the banks of La Fosh, for 70 or 80 miles, is as thick settled as any part of the banks of the Mississippi.

There are several other islands along the Gulf of Mexico, west of Mississippi, on which are some settlements, particularly one called Barataria, at which I was. Among these bays and islands are found, in the greatest perfection and abundance, turtle fish, oysters, &c. and in winter plenty of fowl. Farther to the westward on the bay, is the large rich settlement of Tuckepa, interspersed with beautiful prairies, (land without forest growth,) rivers and creeks, some of which are navigable for small vessels. The population of this district is 965 families; they have large flocks of very large sized cattle, make considerable sugar and cotton for exportation.

North of Tuckepa, and directly back of it, is the district of Appalusa, in extent nearly 100 miles by 50. This is a high, rich, and beautiful country, skirted with clumps of flourishing trees, and interspersed with fine rich prairies, which produce corn and cotton in great perfection. But the immense flocks of cattle, with which they are covered, are almost incredible: ten thousand head may be seen in one view. The population of Appalusa is 470 families. A river called Chaffeli runs through Appalusa, and empties into the Gulf of Mexico, at Tuckepa. This is a part of the Mississippi that breaks out about 200 miles above New-Orleans, just below and in sight of the mouth of Red river.—The navigation of the Chaffeli has been considerably obstructed for some years past, by drift wood, that in floating down the Mississippi, has lodged in its mouth.

North of Appalusa, and joining, begin the settlements on the waters of Red river. This river heads in the same mountains of the Missouri and the river Grand, which separate the waters of the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico, from those of the Western Ocean. Red river is near 2000 miles in length; it falls into the Mississippi about 300 miles from its mouth, and is navigable, it is said, for boats more than 1200 miles. In ascending it, the first high land that will admit of being settled, (on account of its overflowing) is Izavial, which is about 75 miles up it by water, and 40 miles above the mouth of Black river.

Izavial is called an island, and is so at high water: it is a beautiful prairie, on the south side of Red river, about 20 miles in length, and 4 or 5 in breadth, of an oval form, surrounded with thick wood, interspersed with handsome clumps of trees, tufted over with fine grass, and settled all round the edge in a circular form. Their fields are in the prairie, in front of their houses, and the centre of the prairie (which is not cultivated) is covered with cattle of a very large size. I passed through Izavial in the month of March: I accurately ascertained the number of families, which is 296. The land, when ploughed, has a very rich appearance, and produces corn and cotton abundantly, but not to be compared to the river lands, or the Appalusa or Tuckepa prairies. On each side of Red river are some scattering settlements for about 50 miles, to Bayan Rapide, on which are about 100 families. The land here, in point of fertility, is inferior to none in the world; and for about 40 miles hence, to the beginning of the Appalusa prairies, passing Bayan Robert, and Bayan Bœuf (on which a few settlements are beginning) the country is equally rich, and as well timbered as any land can be. It is perfectly level, (resembling a river bed) the soil 20 feet deep, and like a bed of manure.

Higher up Red river, the banks and low grounds (which are 5 or 6 miles wide) are nearly of the same quality as the lands on Bayan Rapide, with only this difference, being of a texture somewhat looser, which is perhaps an advantage. Here are but few settlements, till you arrive at the river Cane Settlements (so called) which is 60 or 70 miles higher up Red river. From this up to the village or post of Natchitoches, which is about 50 miles, and for 25 miles above it, the banks of one branch of Red river are settled in the same manner as the Mississippi. It is impossible to conceive of more beautiful fields and plantations, or more luxuriant crops of corn, cotton and tobacco.

The town or post of Natchitoches, (where is a church, the residence of the commandant, priest, ten or twelve merchants, and 30 or 40 families) was formerly a French garrison and an out post. It is handsomely situated on a hill, which overlooks a great extent of well cultivated fields: it was much larger 50 or 60 years ago than at present, owing to many of the inhabitants, who before lived in the garrison, having, within these 30 or 40 years past, settled on plantations up and down the river.

From this place the great western road takes off towards Mexico, and it will ever be an important place, being the key to an immense rich country. The population of the district of Natchitoches, is between 4 and 5000. The low grounds of Red river, are generally 5 or 6 miles wide, and no soil can be richer, and nearly all alike; considerable part of which is overflowed annually in the month of April; but it continues up but a short time, and always falls in time to plant corn and tobacco, and rises no more till the same time the next year.—There are fields that, from the best account I can obtain, have been planted successively for near 100 years in corn or tobacco, and never known to fail in producing plentiful crops, nor is the soil apparently in the least exhausted. It is particularly favorable for tobacco, which grows remarkably luxuriant, and has a very fine flavour. The soil has a saline impregnation, which imparts something of it to the tobacco.

The well and river water is somewhat brackish. I am convinced that one hand here can make as much tobacco in a season, as four or five on the best lands in Virginia or North-Carolina. It is made without any hills being raised, and grows so quick (from the strength and warmth of the soil) that they usually cut it three times: when prepared for market, it is stemmed and made into twists of five pounds each.

From 80 to 100 bushels of corn can be made to the acre. Cotton produces equally well. The gardens on the natural soil (for they cannot be made richer with manure) are not less astonishing or extraordinary. I have particularly observed the very great height to which the artichoke grows; they are usually 10 feet, and very frequently 12 and 15 feet high.

In the neighborhood of Natchitoches are several salt springs, the waters of which are at least three times as strong as sea water. Two men, with 10 or 12 old pots and kettles, supply the settlement on Red river with salt. The springs are almost inexhaustible, and would admit of very large quantities of salt being made from them.

There are likewise plenty of iron and copper ore, pit coal, shell and stone lime. The different branches of the river, the lakes, creeks and bayans, abound with very fine fish, cockles, soft shelled turtle and shrimps, and in winter great varieties of wild fowl. This country is far from being sickly. The river being very deep, does not get much heated; the houses are immediately on its banks, which are kept perfectly clean; and the water being saltish, prevents the exhalation of sickly vapors; and it is happily freed from many of those troublesome insects so common in the southern states, particularly the bed bug. The musquito is very rarely seen here.

The high-lands, which are all vacant and unsettled, are covered with a thick growth of oak, hickory, ash, gum, sassafras, dogwood, buckeye, grape vines, &c. intermixed with some short-leaved pine, and interspersed with prairies, creeks, lakes and fountains: it is not mountainous, but gently rising hills and vallies, and generally a strong clay soil. But the appearance of both the timber and land is very much injured by the frequent burning of the woods.

The country on Red river which I esteem most valuable, begins about 50 or 60 miles above the upper settlements, and extends 4 or 500 miles. The river there never overflows its banks; the low grounds are wide, and from the river, for 40 miles on each side, the lands are remarkably rich, interspersed with handsome prairies, beautiful streams and fountains; also quarries of freestone, lime, flint, slate, grit, and almost every kind of stone.

About 80 or 90 years ago, a number of Frenchmen settled on this part of Red river: they built a merchant mill, with burr stones (which they brought from France) and cultivated wheat in the prairies with much success, and made excellent flour for several years, till, by the repeated incursions of the Oza Indians, they were compelled to abandon their settlements.

The Ozas are a race of Indians living in a prairie between Red river and a branch of the Missouri, at three remarkable large springs: they formerly consisted of near 2000 warriors, but near two-thirds of them were destroyed by the small-pox a few years ago.—They are in size gigantic, and in disposition cruel and ferocious: they are always at war with their Indian neighbors, and are inveterate enemies of all white people, particularly the Spaniards.

Something more than twenty years ago, an attempt was made by the Spaniards to re-settle this country; for this purpose, some priests, a company of soldiers, and a number of families with a rich outfit, repaired thither. They had been there but a short time, before the Ozas fell upon them and totally destroyed them. No attempt has since been made to settle it.

I am well acquainted with an elderly French gentleman of very large fortune, and strict veracity, who was born there, and who went there a few years ago, and brought away the burr millstones which were left there by the French. From him I have had an accurate description of that country. He says there are, to his certain knowledge, three silver mines, as rich as any in Mexico, from which he has taken ore and had it proved. He likewise described to me a quarry of slate, that is on the bank of the river, from which flakes may be taken seven or eight feet square, perfectly true, and half an inch thick; and that the source is inexhaustible. He says the prairies in that country are full of buffaloes, wild horses, mules, antelopes, and a remarkable species of wild hog, whose navels are on their backs.

In ascending Red river, about thirty miles from the mouth of it, Black river falls in on the north side: this is always a clear navigable stream, for 5 or 600 miles. About 100 miles up it, it branches, at the same place, in three different directions. The eastern branch, called the Tensaw, is navigable for many miles, affords rich land, which is all vacant. The middle or main branch, called Washeta, is navigable 500 miles, on which is an old settlement, affords excellent lands, salt springs, lead ore, and plenty of very good mill and grind stones.—The western branch, called Catahola, (on which are 20 or 30 families newly settled) runs through a beautiful rich prairie country, in which is a large lake, called Catahola Lake. On this lake are said to be a great number of salt springs, and very remarkable accounts are given of the fish and fowl with which it abounds. On the river called Ozark, are many valuable tracts of land, some of which are settled. The same of White river and Saint Francois.

From the lower settlement, at Sans la Grace, to the upper settlements on the Missouri (a distance of upwards of 250 miles) containing a population of 50 or 60,000, is a country equal to Kentucky, or any part of our western territory; and the lead and iron mines contained in it, render it a country of vast importance. The extent of Louisiana being 1500 miles in length, and not less than 200 in width, will admit of its being divided into four states at least.

Travelling up the Mississippi some months ago, I took pains to ascertain the number of sugar plantations, and the average quantity of sugar made annually on each. I found 14 below N. Orleans, and 64 above, in all 78; and they averaged annually about 75,000 pounds weight of sugar, besides a proportionable quantity of rum and molasses. Considerable sugar has been made in Tuckepa, but I have not been able to ascertain the quantity; but in examining that part of Louisiana that will answer for the cultivation of sugar, viz. on the Mississippi, for 60 miles below New-Orleans, and 60 miles above it, with Terre Bœuf, and the bayan St. John's, the bayan La Fosh, Tuckepa, and Quelquechose, at least 1000 sugar plantations may be made equal to those now used as such, which might turn out annually 75,000 hogsheads, of 1000 pounds weight each, besides a proportionable quantity of rum and molasses.

(To be continued.)

TO RENT,

And immediate Possession given,

A Two story Frame House, in the City of Washington, situated on N. F street, square 224—containing 4 rooms beside two garret rooms, piazza and pantry, kitchen, store room, &c. with a good garden—lately occupied by Mrs. Lee, adjoining to Mr. Xaupie's store—Also that convenient two-story frame on same square, late in possession of Dr. Tabs, opposite to which Robert Peacock, Esq. lately resided—consisting of 6 rooms, and two garret rooms, piazza and balcony to south front, cellar with dry well, kitchen, carriage house, stable, an excellent garden, with every convenience fit for the reception of a genteel family. For particulars enquire at Mr. Rhode's tavern, Mr. Xaupie's store, or to the subscriber

REDMUND PURCEL.

January 13, 1804—tf