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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

[We owe the following interesting description of the district of Mobile to H. Toulmin, Esquire, who has, by several papers of the more characteristic, evinced his fidelity of delineation.]

A GEOGRAPHICAL & STATISTICAL *SKETCH OF THE* DISTRICT OF MOBILE.

SITUATION.

THAT tract of country which we have denominated the District of Mobile, is situated in the Eastern part of the Mississippi Territory, and comprehends the country of Washington on the Mobile Alabama tributary streams, and the new county of Madison in the great bend of the Tennessee.

The District of Mobile, as laid off for the purpose of collecting duties on imports and tonnage, comprehends the shores, waters, and islands of the bay & river Mobile and others emptying into the gulph of Mexico west of the Mobile to the Pascagoula inclusive. That tract of country which we have here denominated the District of Mobile lies between the 31st and 35th degrees of North Latitude, and according to the maps, between the 7th and 11th degrees of Longitude West from the city of Washington.

BOUNDARIES.

This District is bounded on the North by the Tennessee river, from its rise, West of the Pearl river, to a line running due North from its source to the Tennessee; thence a line South by the boundary line between the Choctaw and Creek Indians, and on the East by the Chickasaw rivers, as far as the mouth of the Tobesa, and from thence by a direct line to Nickajack on the Tennessee river, and by that, to Ocoi, from Nickajack, up as far as the Southern boundary of the state of Tennessee.

EXTENT.

From Mr. Ellicot's survey of the national boundary at the 31st degree of North latitude, it appears that Pearl river the Western limit of this district is 106 miles from the Mississippi, and that from Pearl river to the Mobile river it is 100 miles, and thence to the Chickasaw-bee the Western limit of Georgia 175 miles—making the whole extent of the district on the boundary line 375 miles. It appears in like manner from a map lately in the War office by Captain E. P. Gaines, that from the upper end of the Mobile bay and the Tensaw river due South to the national boundary it is 262 1-2 miles, which, add to this distance from the Mobile to the Tennessee state line, will make the whole length of the District of Mobile about 240 miles.

So that this District, the extension of which is scarcely known, to the American people, probably contains a greater number of square miles, than the important states of Delaware or New York. However, as a great proportion of it is claimed by the Indians, this part will be little fertile till it has been extinguished, and which is partially settled by the citizens of the United States, appears to be nearer to the extent of Maryland, New Jersey or Connecticut.

The United States have the absolute right of soil and jurisdiction from the Pearl river to the Mobile line, and the miles East of the Eastern channel of the Mobile. The Western boundary between the Indians and United States in this district, and the Choctaws, is where it crosses Pearl river, 22 miles North of the distance of the Pearl river, the line of that county—The Northern territory limited as that time crossed Pearl river; but the territory has since been extended so as to throw its Northern limit above the sources of Pearl river.

boundary, but the Eastern termination, on the dividing ridge, between the waters of Tombigby and Alabama, will probably be found (for the two waters are now supposed to run running it) to be considerably farther North from the Spanish line.

SOIL.

The soil of this district varies considerably in different parts of it. For 30 miles off on shore above the national boundary, the good land is generally speaking, confined to the low grounds of the larger water courses. The swamps, as they are called, of Pearl river, of the Pascagoula and Chickasawhee, forks of the Pascagoula, of the Mobile river, and of the Tombigby, are extensive, rich, and productive. The higher parts of the swamps are thickly covered with ashe, willow, hickory and holly cane, and the growth of timber, is cotton-wood, gum, oak, hickory, maple, ash. The lower swamp lands have no cane, but a matted grass growth of cypress is intermixed with other timber. The highest part of the swamp, is generally nearest the river. There are no levees or embankments, as on the Mississippi, and the floods which occur in a great or a less degree every year, contribute to increase the fertility of the land. The breadth of our river bottoms or swamps, is very considerable.—Probably they are for the most part, from one to two miles wide, and in but more frequently less than two miles, than more than that width. Below the Alabama fields, on Mobile river, between Fort Stoddert and the line, the whole of the river bottoms, on both sides of the river channels, is from eight to ten miles wide; and the same may be said of the bottoms of the forks of the Alabama and Tombigby, for the space of a few miles above their junction. The other lands through this large extent of country, are generally speaking, of a quality, good range for cattle, immense supplies of timber, pitch, tar and turpentine, but wanting in the necessary quantity of cultivatement to tillage.

The general observations, which have been made, as to the country 40 miles above the national boundary, will apply to the country below the line; except that where you approach within 20 or 25 miles of the mouth of the rivers, instead of being diversified by hill and dale, as they are above, become a dead uninhabitable level, in a great part of which is the salve season covered with water, so as to render it unpleasant, though by no means difficult to travel through it.

As a greater distance than 40 miles from the national boundary, as is proved, North, in the state of the country and the natural soil considerably changes. Large bodies of rich land, are then found at a considerable distance from the Tombigby & Alabama, and the Tombigby, but likewise with regard to the land on the Mobile, on the river and on the Alabama. Not however, that in either place, there are compact bodies of rich land extending over any considerable tract of country, or a great many miles, in circuit, as in Kentucky and the state of Ohio; but there are several parcels of such land sufficiently large to support respectable settlements.

As an idea part of the District which lies in the great bend of the Tennessee, & forms the new county of Madison, is unknown to the public, can speak with no precision about it. The country, however, is first rate lands, and seen uniformly represented, as containing a fine body of land of excellent quality, and the most eligible site of an extensive settlement there, as soon as the Indian title was extinguished, which it is stated, is in fact in representation. The land said to be rich, but very broken. The water courses, all of good land,—and unlinded on the hills, but they are frequently too steep to admit of cultivation.

PRODUCE.

The actual produce of this country consists principally of Indian corn and cotton. The rice for lands, where rice can grow, are probably as well adapted to the cultivation of those articles, as any land in America; and it is a circumstance very favorable to the opinion that the *Sea Island* cotton would flourish well on the lower part of this country, that the *green seed* cotton has a perpetual tendency to degenerate into the common *black* seed cotton, whereas in situations not favorable to the cultivation of the latter, it is said that it regularly degenerates into the former. The pin lands also, with the exception of swamps, provided the soil be sufficiently tenacious to hold its well gilled tolerable crops of corn and cotton, with little assistance is necessary in the oak and hickory lands, above, and small pines below, the best kinds of land, which in a state of nature produce walnut, poplar and ash, with sycamore and nutts for family consumption, are likewise select in the upper parts of this district, by reason of the superior fertility of the land. The breadth of our river bottoms or swamps, is very considerable.—Probably they are for the most part, from one to two miles wide, and in but more frequently less than two miles, than more than that width. Below the Alabama fields, on Mobile river, between Fort Stoddert and the line, the whole of the river bottoms, on both sides of the river channels, is from eight to ten miles wide; and the same may be said of the bottoms of the forks of the Alabama and Tombigby, for the space of a few miles above their junction. The other lands through this large extent of country, are generally speaking, of a quality, good range for cattle, immense supplies of timber, pitch, tar and turpentine, but wanting in the necessary quantity of cultivatement to tillage.

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