

Geographical, Historical, Commercial, and Agricultural

VIEW

OF THE

United States of America;

FORMING A COMPLETE

Emigrant's Directory

Through every part of the Republic:

Particularising the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Illinois; and the Territories of Alabama, Missouri, with a description of the newly-acquired countries, East and West Florida, Michigan, and North-western; and comprising important details on the mode of settling, prospect of adventurers, religious opinions, manners and customs of the inhabitants, principal towns and villages, their manufactures, commerce, objects of curiosity, &c.; with a minute and comprehensive description of the soil, productions, climate and aspect of the country; likewise, an account of the British Possessions in

UPPER AND LOWER CANADA;

Accompanied by a whole Sheet Map of the United States; and correct Table or List of the principal Post and Cross Roads throughout the United States.

Compiled by several Gentlemen, from a variety of Original Manuscripts, and from the latest and best authorities.

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PREFACE

It is now near half a century since any work of this nature has been published, comprising real practical information, and embracing every part of the United States of America; this fact will, of course, sufficiently establish the necessity and utility of the Volume now presented to the Public: for, although several volumes of travels, and many journals of tourists have been published within that period, they are chiefly confined to mere local descriptions, of little moment to the future emigrant. The mere description of a country, however faithfully executed, is by no means sufficient for the foreigner or future inhabitant, who eagerly desires to know the local nature and advantages of the situation where he purposes to reside—the quality of the soil—the rate of land—the price of labour, [of living, of every article he may have to sell or purchase.

The compilers of this volume have been particularly careful in selecting, from the latest and most authentic sources, all such minute and necessary

heads of information ; while, at the same time, equal regard has been paid to an accurate description of the boundaries, situation, and extent ; lakes, rivers, and canals ; climate and diseases ; mountains ; mineral, animal, and vegetable productions ; settlements and population ; Indians ; antiquities ; extent and navigable waters ; prices current ; expenses of housekeeping and travelling ; together with copious and useful directions to Emigrants, &c. &c.

In procuring intelligence so various and extensive, recourse has been had to every work of reputation on these subjects that has appeared since the year 1788 ; many of which have never appeared in Great Britain, whilst considerable assistance has been afforded by the kindness of several gentlemen resident in America, who have furnished many original documents and official communications.

The great interest excited of late, regarding that part of America, generally known by the appellation of the "*Western Country*," has induced the Compilers to dedicate a considerable portion of this Work to a faithful and interesting description of the whole of the Western States and Territories ; comprising an immense tract of land of nearly one thousand

millions of acres, rendered peculiarly interesting from the numerous recent emigrations from all parts of Europe.

Subjoined to all this, is an accurate account of the present state of the British possessions of Upper and Lower Canada.—Together with a Map of the whole of the United States and Territories; as also a complete Table or List of the Post and Cross Roads, of consequence, forming upon the whole, a complete fund of information, highly useful and necessary to the Emigrant, and interesting to the general reader.

With this brief notice of its contents, the Publisher lays this Work before the Public, containing a faithful compendium of all that has been written upon the country and people of the United States of America; as especial care has been taken not to omit any circumstance worthy of notice, and on every subject to observe the strictest adherence to truth and impartiality.

Liverpool, }
September, 1820. }

UNITED STATES

OF

AMERICA.

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Geographical and Statistical Description.

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THE states which constituted the American republic on the ratification of the treaty of peace with Great Britain, in September, 1783, were the following: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.—These states, in their fullest extent, comprise eighteen degrees of latitude, and thirty-three degrees of longitude; being about 1250 miles in length, and 1040 in breadth: reaching from 31° to 49° north, and from 51° to 84° west from Greenwich.—But as the Americans had at that time fixed their meridian at Philadelphia, the extent in longitude from that city is from 8° east to 24° west.—Since the removal of congress from Philadelphia to Washington, in the year 1800, the meridian of the United States has been fixed at the latter city.

The principal geographer to the American government has computed, that the surface contained within the boundaries so described is 1,000,000 of square miles, which comprehends 640 millions of acres; and he computes that of these, fifty-one millions are water, or about 2-25ths of the whole.—The land, therefore, within the United States at their separation from the mother country, amounted to 589 millions of acres; about 3-5ths of which is comprised in the thirteen original states; the remaining 220 millions, which lie west of the northern and middle states, and north-west of the river Ohio, extending to the Mississippi river, with an extensive region south of the Ohio, originally ceded to the Union by North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, were intended by congress to be divided into ten new states, to be called *Washington, Mesopotamia, Pesilippi, Michigania, Illinois, Chersonesus, Saratoga, Sylvania, Assonipi,* and *Polo-*

potamia:—But, for reasons not publicly known, this vast region has been formed into states and territories with names different from the above; all of which, with the purchased country of Louisiana, will be found described in their proper order.

At the present time (1818) the United States, in which is included the whole of Louisiana as it existed under France and Spain, extends from east to west 2700 miles, and from north to south 1650; comprehending an area of 2,379,350 square miles, or 1,522,784,000 acres.—The population by the last census, 1810, was 7,239,903; being less than three persons to each square mile of territory, so that to every inhabitant there is nearly 200 acres of land.—What a field is here presented for contemplation!—A square mile of tolerable land is capable of sustaining three hundred human beings; but supposing only one hundred to the square mile, the United States territory could sustain nearly 240 millions; without being more populous than the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut are at present.—But to enable the reader, at one view, to form a correct judgment upon this important branch of political economy, the following table is subjoined:—

America.	Inhab. per sq. mile.	Europe.	Inhab. per sq. mile.
Connecticut,	60	Italy,	222
Massachusetts,	54	England,	181
New York,	18	France,	174
Pennsylvania,	16	Ireland,	136
Virginia,	14	Spain,	72
Louisiana, under	2	Scotland,	63

It appears from the foregoing statement, that were the whole of the United States only as well inhabited as Pennsylvania, they would contain above thirty-eight millions of people; with a population equal to Connecticut, nearly 143 millions; equal to England, upwards of 430 millions; and equal to Italy, they would contain more than 528 millions of human beings.—Supposing the population to increase in the same ratio as it has done during the last hundred years, the result would be nearly as follows:—

In 1818	Population.	In 1870	Population.
1820	9,451,473	1880	47,527,165
1830	10,008,177	1890	64,779,525
1840	13,700,726	1899	88,204,394
1850	18,769,567	1900	129,345,394
1860	25,382,919	1910	164,939,772
1870	34,869,520	1918	211,665,480

So that according to this ratio, the whole country would be equally populous with Pennsylvania, about the year 1863.—About 1905, it would equal Connecticut; and in 1944, it would be as populous as England is at present.

Situation and boundaries.—The United States are situated between $25^{\circ} 50'$ and $49^{\circ} 37'$ north latitude; and between 10° east, and $48^{\circ} 20'$ west longitude from the city of Washington.—They are bounded on the east by the Atlantic ocean and the British province of New Brunswick; on the north, by Lower and Upper Canada, and the large unsettled country to the westward of those provinces; on the west, by the Pacific ocean; on the south-west, by the Spanish internal provinces and the river Del Norte; and on the south by the gulf of Mexico and Florida.

Rivers and lakes.—The greater number of the rivers will be described in the topographical view of the several states and territories to which they respectively belong; but as some of the larger waters form the boundaries between the United States and other countries, a description of them will appear with more propriety in this place.—The rivers to be here noticed are the St. Lawrence and its waters; the Columbia and its waters; the Rio del Norte; and the Missouri and Mississippi, with their tributary rivers.

Soil and productions, vegetable and animal.—In this vast extent of territory is to be found every species of soil which the earth affords, and equal to that of any country in the habitable globe.—In one part or the other is produced all the various kinds of fruit, grain, pulse, and garden plants and roots which are found in Europe, and have been thence transplanted to America; and besides these, a great variety of native vegetables.—On the Atlantic coast, to the north and east, the country is stony, and towards the south, sandy; but in both cases it is interspersed with a great deal of excellent land.—Approaching the mountains the soil improves, and there are many situations extremely fertile: on the mountains, the soil is light and thin, but rich in the valleys between the ridges. Beyond the mountains, in the valleys of the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri, there are vast tracts of land uncommonly rich and fertile. Towards the south-western parts of the Missouri territory, the soil is light, thin, and sandy. The mountainous region to the north-west is pretty similar to the Allegany mountains, but the hills are much more lofty, and the soil more variable. On the other side of these mountains, there is much good soil all the way to the Pacific ocean.

who will check and controul the Indians in that quarter ; and, judging from the value of the country, and the great tide of emigration to the westward, we may conclude that the basis of a society will soon be formed, requiring the usual forms of government established in the other territories. No settlements of consequence, however, have yet been made, and the few inhabitants were not included in the last census.

Rivers.—The rivers of this territory have three different directions ; a part running northwardly into lake Superior ; others westwardly into the Mississippi ; and some eastwardly into lake Michigan and the river Illinois.

Fox river rises in the high lands on the north-eastern corner of the territory, near the Ouisconsin, and runs parallel with that river for fifty miles, at one place approaching within three miles of it. From thence it pursues a north-east course, and passing through Winnebago lake, falls into Green bay, a branch of lake Michigan.

Plein river, or Des Plaines, described in page 572, enters the Illinois fifty-five miles south of the Chicago portage. This stream has four or five short rapids, that appear only in times of low water ; in every other part it has the appearance of being a chain of stagnant pools and small lakes, affording a sufficient depth of water for boats of moderate draught.

The Depage rises a few miles west of the Plein, which it closely resembles in the height of its bluffs, width of its valley, soil, and timber ; it enters the Illinois seventy miles above the mouth of Plein.

Chicago river is merely an arm of the lake of that name, dividing itself into two branches, at the distance of a mile inland from its communication with the lake. The entrance of this river into lake Michigan is obstructed by a sand bar, which could easily be removed, so as to admit vessels of any burden into the river ; and the water-course which is already opened between the Chicago and Plein, needs but little more excavation to answer all the purposes of a canal ; and to render the Plein and Illinois navigable for boats and flats, nothing is neces-

NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

Situation, Boundaries, and Extent.

This territory is situated between 41 deg. 45 min. and 49 deg. 37 min. N. lat. and 7 deg. and 18 deg 50 min. W. long. It is bounded on the north by Upper Canada and lake Superior ; south, by the states of Indiana and Illinois ; east, by Upper Canada and lake Michigan ; and west and south-west by the Mississippi river, which divides it from the Missouri territory. Its extent from north to south is about 360 miles, and from east to west 456 miles ; comprising nearly 147,000 square miles or, 91,080,000 acres.—This extensive country has not yet been organized into a regular government ; but it is advancing rapidly into importance. Part of the United States troops are stationed at the village of Prairie du Chiens, near the confluence of the Ouisconsin with the Mississippi, and along the Ouisconsin and Fox rivers,