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GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL  
VIEW OF TEXAS;

WITH A DETAILED ACCOUNT

OF THE

TEXIAN REVOLUTION AND WAR.

CHAPTER I.

*Boundaries and extent—explored and unexplored regions—natural divisions—eastern or wooded region—its extent—surface—soil and productions—settlements, towns and rivers—middle or wood and prairie region—its extent and area—general aspect of the country, as presented to the traveller—character of the soil—its present productions and promise of future—climate—its promise of health—the causes—water—bays—navigable rivers and water courses—facilities of intercourse and transportation—settlements and towns—inhabitants—their number—origin and character.*

THE territory claimed by the present government of Texas, is bounded north and east by the United States, south by the gulf of Mexico, and west by the river Bravo del Norte, which separates it from Mexico; lying between 25° and 39° north latitude, and 95° and 107° west longitude; being in its greatest length from north to south, on its western boundary, following the course of the river, more than fifteen hundred miles; and in its greatest breadth from the northeastern boundary, on the Red river due west to the Bravo del Norte, more than seven hundred miles. Its area, however, is probably something less than 400,000 square miles. Its boundaries are, for the most part, natural, and for the rest easily defined; the southern being entirely upon the waters of the gulf, the western nearly so, upon those of the river

Bravo del Norte, and having two important rivers, the Arkansaw and Red river along its whole northern boundary, and for its eastern the Sabine and certain parallels of longitude.

That portion of Texas, however, of which we shall attempt a description, lies within much narrower limits, little being as yet known of much of the western and northwestern part of it, which comprises probably more than half its whole area.

Of the region which is yet but partially explored, the accounts of the very few persons capable of estimating its value and importance, who have crossed it in different directions, would seem to authorize a belief that it has hitherto been greatly underrated; possibly as much so, as was, twenty years ago, that part which is now fully brought to light.

The country may be pronounced fully explored, perhaps, along the whole extent of its coast, and into the interior an average extent of 200 miles, with a narrow belt on its northern border, upon the Red river. The former of these tracts lies mostly between  $27^{\circ}$  and  $31^{\circ}$  north latitude, and it is this region that is generally understood when Texas is spoken of, and here its present inhabitants are located; the few settlers on the Texas side of Red river, deeming themselves rather inhabitants of the United States than of Texas.

There is no question in regard to boundaries, affecting any considerable proportion of the lands upon the Red river. They are clearly the property of Texas, and within her jurisdiction, if she succeeds in establishing her independence, as is also an extensive region between them and that which we have marked out upon the coast, and also the region extending to the northwest towards Santa Fe, and the head-waters of the Arkansaw; all of which will become ultimately, and most of it immediately, valuable as a public domain. But public attention is now directed to that part of Texas which is the abode of some thirty thousand inhabitants, who have manifested their estimate of its value, by daring to war against eight millions for its defence. It is here, too, that future emigrants to Texas, for some years to come, must find their abode. It is this region, therefore, that seems to demand our principal care in the geographical part of the sketch we have undertaken.

In regard to surface, the aspect of the whole coast of Texas is alike level, presenting neither mountain, hill, nor bluff, from one extremity to the other. The level lands of the coast vary in breadth, from 30 to 80 miles; the surface then becomes gently undulating, or waving, though with frequent level tracts of some miles in extent, becoming more uneven towards the interior; yet so gradual that there is but little perceptible difference in an advance of 50 miles, continuing east of the Brazos, until it subside

at the lands bordering on the Red River. From the Brazos west, to the valley of the Bravo del Norte, the rolling country is terminated on the north, by a range of mountains, or rather a succession of lofty peaks and knobs, at an average distance of 200 miles from the coast.

In passing from the coast to the interior, the country is naturally divided into two regions, the level, and the undulating; but on proceeding across the country, from east to west, whether over the level lands of the coast, or the waving lands of the interior, the traveller is persuaded to make a division of the country into three parts, the eastern, middle, and western, and to characterize them as the wooded, mixed, and prairie regions. This division of the country is thought to be the most natural, as the names alone serve to designate, and nearly define, the exact limits of each to the eye of the most superficial observer, and because there is in the soil and geological structure much that is peculiar to each.

The eastern and wooded region of Texas, is the smallest of the three. It extends from the Sabine west to the tributaries of the Trinity, a distance of about 100 miles. Along the eastern line upon the Sabine, there is a tract of light sandy land, from ten to fifteen miles in breadth, covered with a heavy growth of pine timber, resembling most of the southern coast of the United States; then commences the tract, familiarly known by the name of the red lands, extending to the western confines of this division. This tract is covered mostly with a forest of hard wood, made up of the various species which are found in the forests of the United States, with many others not found in higher latitudes, and with an occasional sprinkling of pine where the sand prevails over the red loam.

The level region upon the coast here extends into the interior, from 50 to 70 miles, the surface then becomes uneven, but not hilly. At the distance of 100 miles it is more broken, rising occasionally into hills, with some loose rocks near their summits, but without ledges, and always with so gradual a rise as to be of easy ascent, and with declivities not too steep for the convenient use of the plough. There are no extensive bottoms or plains—the streams winding their way between the undulations, without materially varying the character of the soil or surface.

The level lands of the coast are covered with heavy timber, and this alone at no distant day, must render them highly valuable; they are, besides, for the most part, good and feasible; they are not however such lands as are looked for in Texas. Very few settlers have located on them, and these few are from the adjoining borders of Louisiana. The rolling lands have obtained, and deserve a much higher character; they are what in any part of the

United States, east of the mountains, would be called rich lands, well watered, healthy, and affording good crops of cotton, Indian corn, rye, oats, beans, and every species of culinary vegetable that is produced in any part of the United States. Highly productive also of fruit of almost all kinds, whether of the temperate or tropical regions. They are therefore eagerly sought for by those who have not seen the "paradise beyond." Extensive settlements have already been made here; the road from Gains' ferry, on the Sabine, across this whole division, being tolerably well settled, and presenting several large and flourishing plantations.

Besides the Sabine, which washes its whole eastern, and the Trinity ranging near its western border, the latter navigable for small steamboats more than 200 miles, this division has the Neeches, the Angelina, and their numerous branches, which have their whole course within its limits. The latter is a branch of the former, but of nearly equal size at their confluence. The tributaries of both are numerous, several being of sufficient size for mill-streams, and might be advantageously used for that purpose. The Neeches is also navigable for steamboats, to the mouth of the Angelina, about 75 miles.

The old town of Nacogdoches is situated upon the Angelina, in this region, nearly equi-distant between the Sabine and Trinity; about 30 miles nearer the Sabine, is the new town of San Augustine, a lively village of 60 or 80 white houses and stores in the midst of an oak and hickory grove, and in the neighborhood of a flourishing farming settlement and mills, upon the Ayish Bayou, a branch of the Neeches. This town was the residence of President Houston, before his appointment to the office of commander-in-chief of the Texian army.

This division is equally well known by the name of the forest region, or the Red lands; nothing can be more appropriate than the latter name, as the soil, especially when newly turned up, is as red as if stained with fresh blood; so perfect is the resemblance that on accidentally breaking the sod the effect is often startling.

The middle division, or region of mingled wood and prairie, extends from the eastern tributaries of the Trinity river west across the river, the Brazos and Colorado, including the tributaries of the latter, and perhaps, also the river La Baca, a distance of about 150 miles. From the coast to the range of mountains which extends along most of the northern boundary of this region, the average distance is about 200 miles, making an area of 30,000 square miles. Of this, it is estimated, that about one third is covered with wood, the residue is open prairie, resembling in a state of nature, the richest upland meadows which have been laid down with the nicest care and taste in the best cultivated portions of the earth, and for the most part may be brought un-

der tillage with as little expenditure of labor. The greater part of the surrounding wood-lands are tall groves, without undergrowth, presenting the appearance of having been neatly trimmed by the hand of art, and the whole, grove and lawn, covered with rich grass, and verdant the whole year.

The level lands of the coast are here about 80 miles in breadth, and besides the three large rivers which have been mentioned, there are no less than ten others of from 50 to 100 miles in length, which meander their way between them, and discharge their waters into the gulf or the bays of Galveston and Matagorda, which cover more than two thirds of the whole line of coast. The level lands present a succession of broad wooded bottoms, bordering these numerous rivers, with open prairies between; the wooded bottoms interspersed with open meadows of various extent, and the prairies with wooded vales, pointing up from the bottoms, and island groves of wood, with here and there a sprinkling of single trees, most of them stately live oaks, with their broad spreading branches.

The whole of this region is found to have a gradual ascent from the coast, so that the streams flow off with a lively current, and leave the lands every where well drained, and free from swamps and marshes.

The open prairies, which first appear among the eastern branches of the Trinity, are there small and infrequent, and are found gradually to increase in number and extent; in advancing to the west, upon the borders of that river, the wood is still predominant. The pine and magnolia are found here in genial spots, where they can strike their roots into their favorite sand. Large and valuable forests of the former abound low down upon the parent stream, and upon several of its branches. Leaving the tributaries of this river, they entirely disappear. Upon the Trinity there is still sufficient sand to give the soil the dark drab color of the sugar lands of the Mississippi. This soon disappears in advancing toward the Brazos, where the soil of the bottoms is of a deep chocolate, and that of the uplands of a still darker hue.

The Labadie and San Antonio roads both lead across the middle region of Texas, north of the level lands. These are ancient paths, which have been trodden for a century or more, in passing from the old Spanish posts of Labadie and San Antonio, situated at different points upon the San Antonio river, to Nacogdoches upon the Red lands.

In passing from the Trinity to the Colorado, by either of these roads, the whole route is a succession of verdant grove and lawn, continually varying in extent, form and surface, embellished as they should be with frequent glimpses of limpid waters, from the

rivers, brooks and fountains that so often flow by the way, presenting not unfrequently scenes of the most surpassing beauty and loveliness, such as nature rarely exhibits to the admiring gaze of the traveller. But he finds here only a faithful picture of the undulating lands of the middle region of Texas; any other parallel routes between the level lands and the mountains, a distance of more than a hundred miles, would present a new picture of the same enchanting scenery.

We have thus briefly attempted a description of the middle region of Texas, as it appears to the eye of the traveller, but feeble indeed must be our effort, since the subject is one to which neither pen nor pencil can do justice.

Nature, in giving so beautiful an exterior to this highly favored region, has not withheld from it any of her richer gifts. The land, which surpasses all other uncultivated lands in scenes of quiet beauty, to please the longing eyes of civilized man, surpasses them no less in the easy and abundant means it affords for supplying his numerous and daily increasing wants.

The soil over this whole region, with the exception of some tracts, as before remarked, in the neighborhood of the Trinity river, and some few gravelly knolls of unfrequent occurrence in the undulating country near the Colorado, is a dark vegetable mould, slightly mixed with sand and shells, warm and fertile in the highest degree, and of a depth that must render its fertility inexhaustible. This valuable deposit, which may be drawn upon without diminution for countless ages, lies in greater bulk over the bottoms and prairies of the level country, where it is generally from 10 to 20 feet in depth, than upon the rolling prairies of the interior; but here it is seldom less than 4 feet, and is often found of the depth of 6 and even 10 feet.

Those acquainted with the prairies of Illinois and Missouri can best appreciate both the immediate and durable advantages which those in this region afford to the "settler." The same wide range of rich pasturage for domestic cattle, here extends round the whole year. The grass is in general finer, and the sod more easily turned, and sooner productive of full crops; and here cotton, the most profitable of all the products of agriculture, for which these lands are peculiarly adapted, is a never-failing crop.

In general, there are more abundant and more convenient supplies of wood and timber, and less necessity for its use. In the annual products of the forest-trees, a resource which is scarcely known in old and populous regions, yet of great value to the early settlers of a new country, this region has greatly the advantage over Illinois and Missouri, in the greater variety and abundance of acorns, nuts, and other kinds of mast, for the subsistence and fattening of swine; a resource which, like the pas-

turage for cattle, is here never buried in snow, nor injured by severe frosts.

As yet, very little corn has here been used in the fattening of swine. There are planters who make from five to ten tons of excellent pork, entirely upon mast.

Seventy-five bushels of Indian corn, or 1000 lbs. of clean cotton, with ordinary care in the tillage, are considered an average crop per acre, for the lands reduced to cultivation.

Those acquainted with the business of growing these staples, will perceive that the labor of one man might produce 400 bushels of corn, and 5000 lbs. of cotton, besides a supply of vegetables for a small family, which at the price these articles usually sell, would enable him to realize, after reserving sufficient corn for his own use, an income of more than \$1000 a year; at the same time without any labor, he may realize 50 per cent. a year for whatever capital he has invested in neat cattle and swine.

Two crops of corn may be grown in a year, and in most seasons a full crop would be obtained at each planting; the second however must be planted in July, and would sometimes fail for want of rains. Planted in the latter part of February, or in all the month of March, Indian corn is a sure and never-failing crop. Cotton may be planted from February to the first of June, without hazard of a total failure, but a more plentiful crop is secured by early planting. Oats yield a liberal increase in every part of this region; wheat could not be produced upon the level lands, and if it could be, the ease of procuring it from abroad, and the fourfold profit from the same labor directed to the raising of cotton, would exclude it from the list of productions. Upon the rolling lands of the interior, experiments upon a small scale have been made at growing wheat, which for the most part have resulted favorably; but the want of mills for flouring must prevent any considerable attempts at raising this grain for some years to come. The land within 30 or 40 miles of the mountains, where limestone ledges sometimes form the banks of the streams, is pronounced by those who profess to be skilled in this matter, to be a genuine wheat region. Mill-streams are also numerous here, and it is confidently predicted that this, at no distant day, will become the granary of Texas.

Tobacco and indigo plants are both indigenous here, and the former has been already cultivated to some extent. The sugar culture has been commenced, and there is the best reason for believing that the crop will not be less sure and abundant than it has been found in Louisiana. The manufacture of sugar, however, requires so considerable an investment of capital as to render its introduction into a new country necessarily slow; besides, the great encouragement afforded of late for the growing of cotton,

and the extraordinary success which has attended the culture of that plant here, has very naturally caused an application of almost the whole labor of Texas to its production. It should be understood that the force which is necessary to gather the produce of any given number of acres of cotton, during the season of picking it from the bolls, producing as largely as this plant does in Texas, may, during the season of planting and hoeing, cultivate an equal number of acres of Indian corn or potatoes, and the gathering of the latter crops may be deferred until the cotton-picking season is past, so that an application of the whole force of a plantation or a farm, to the production of cotton, does not exclude the cultivation at the same time and by the same force of a sufficient supply of eatables of all kinds, for their own subsistence, and also a surplus for market; the harvesting of the various species of small grains would come between the last hoeing and the first picking of cotton, and that of Indian corn may be done at that interval, or remain, as before remarked, until the cotton-picking is over.

Hitherto little has been done here at growing any of the small grains, and as the perpetual supply of growing herbage renders it unnecessary to make hay or to prepare any dry forage for domestic cattle, the months of June and July are with the Texian farmer the leisure months of the year; during the excessive heats of midsummer, when the severest labor is imposed as a *sine qua non* upon the agriculturist of a more northern latitude, the Texian farmer may repose under the shadow of his live oaks, fanned by the refreshing breeze, which, regular as the rising sun, sweeps over his country, from the gulf to the mountains, during his long summer which extends more than half round the year.

In this region, literally flowing with milk and honey, yielding spontaneously a generous support even for civilized man, and rewarding his moderate labor with an untold abundance of almost all of value that the earth anywhere can be made to produce; in this region, where spring and summer reign alternate through the year, can man live, and especially can he labor and enjoy that vigorous health which is justly deemed essential to the full enjoyment of life, is the eager inquiry of thousands, whose lot is cast where the earth yields in return for the severest toil a scanty pittance during half the year, and for the other half lies wrapped in a shroud, and locked in the icy embraces of death. It cannot be disguised that the thirtieth degree of north latitude crosses this region nearly centrally, and that therefore the sun must be nearly vertical here for several months in the year. This alone has been deemed sufficient ground for pronouncing a country thus situated, unfriendly to the health and happiness of the human race

in general, and fatal to that of every human being who has happened to be born in a higher latitude.

Having read of or witnessed the excessive heat of Northern Africa, and the malignant diseases generated by the extensive swamps and marshes of other parallel regions, the people of northern latitudes cannot be easily persuaded that there may be other regions near the tropics, so favored by nature as to be exempt from either of these evils, and fitted above all others for the highest enjoyment of human life; and yet there are facts that go far to prove that such is the character of the region here spoken of.

In no part of the earth have the first settlers of a new country suffered less from diseases of any kind. Not a solitary case of the various malignant diseases, which are so common in some other parallel regions, has ever been known to exist here. Among the inhabitants who came here from the middle and northern sections of the United States, many whole families may be found who have resided here from five to ten years, in the enjoyment of uninterrupted health.

No one complains of the excessive heat of summer: its unusual length is at first disagreeable to those who have been accustomed to the vicissitudes of the seasons in a northern climate. This soon wears away; but is more effectually cured by a single return, to experience once more the inconveniences, hardships and sufferings of a northern winter.

The surface and geographical position of this region, along the broad sea that forms its southern boundary, in the eyes of a philosopher, would serve as a guaranty against the excessive heats of summer; and on looking further, and finding a country open, as if it had been cultivated for ages, and free from the material which, when acted upon by a summer sun, sends out the exhalations which are known to be the principal cause of the sweeping maladies of summer and autumn, he might promise also a reasonable share of health to its inhabitants.

"The gulf breeze," a periodical wind like the monsoons of the East, and the tradewinds of the West Indies, which never fails to be felt here the first moment the atmosphere is so far heated as to be uncomfortable, sweeps with an unobstructed course over this whole region, diffusing a refreshing and invigorating coolness, which, in less favored positions—even in higher latitudes—is seldom felt during the heat of summer. Facing this breeze, the traveller may here pursue his journey during a midsummer noonday, without experiencing the slightest inconvenience from a vertical sun.

The wooded bottoms of the level country, when first opened, are not exempt from the intermittents which have been found

more or less prevalent in like situations, in all latitudes; but they have been less general and less severe here, than in most other places where they prevail in any degree: cases are never obstinate; but quickly yield to appropriate remedies.

Good water is found in most places, even in the level country, where wells have been sunk to obtain it: on the rolling lands, the numerous gushing fountains have as yet relieved the inhabitants from the necessity of seeking it beneath the surface. No portion of the earth is better provided with navigable waters than this division of Texas, and nowhere can artificial channels of transportation be made at less expense; so that the immense surplus of agricultural treasures which must be produced here at no distant day, may be rendered available to the producer at its highest value.

Galveston bay on the east, and Matagorda bay on the west, extend along more than two thirds of its whole coast: the former receives the waters of the Trinity, and the latter of the Colorado; and nearly centrally between them, the Brazos discharges its waters directly into the gulf. The Brazos and Trinity are navigable for steamboats quite to the northern boundary of this division, and the Colorado still further into the interior. The space between these rivers, in their course through this district, nowhere exceeds sixty miles. Besides these large rivers, there are several less considerable streams, such as the San Jacinto, Bernard, Caney and La Baca, which may be navigated by small steamboats, from thirty to fifty miles into the country. These secondary streams have nearly their whole course in the level country; and further interior, the country is watered by the numerous tributaries of the three large rivers, some of which are navigable for a short distance. It will be perceived, however, that no part of this division of Texas can be more than thirty miles distant from the navigable waters of one of its large rivers.

Most of the settlements in this division are in the immediate neighborhood of the navigable rivers; and the earliest and most considerable are upon the Brazos, upon the borders of which scattering settlements are found from the mouth to the northern boundary of this division. The broad alluvial bottoms of this river, which in some places stretch off to a distance of ten miles from each bank, and generally elevated above the annual freshets, were eagerly sought for by the first settlers. Much of this was covered with wood, which they had to clear away for cultivation, incredulous that the contiguous prairies, which were then ready for the plough, would prove equally productive.

Towns have been laid out at various points upon this river, in a few of which some progress has been made in building. Brazoria, standing thirty miles from the mouth, by the course of the

river, and fifteen by land, is the largest and best built; the others, which have already assumed the appearance of villages, are, Velasco, at the mouth; Columbia, ten miles above Brazoria; San Felipé, ninety miles higher; and Washington, yet forty miles above the latter. San Felipé, which had already become a lively village, and which concentrated most of the trade of the interior, was burnt by the inhabitants during the late invasion, when the Mexican army were known to be approaching the town. It is not yet rebuilt; and an effort, which will probably prove successful, is now making, to supersede it, by the enterprising proprietors of Fort Bend, a beautiful eminence, surrounded by one of the most flourishing planting neighborhoods in Texas, twenty miles below the site of San Felipé.

Oyster Creek winds its way for a distance of eighty miles through the bottoms of the Brazos, on the east side of that river. Its general course is three or four miles distant; but its outlet into the gulf is within a mile of the mouth of that river. Many extensive cane-brakes, without timber, were originally found upon this creek, which were easily brought under cultivation, nothing being required but to set fire to the reeds when dry. The burning sufficiently prepared it for planting; and this process consisted only in perforating the earth with a staff, to receive the grain. Some of the most valuable plantations in Texas are upon this creek; and among them is one belonging to the Hon. William H. Wharton, the present Texian minister at Washington.

The borders of the Trinity are thinly settled, from its mouth to the distance of 150 miles interior. Here are several sugar plantations, making from sixty to eighty hogsheads annually; and between the Trinity and Brazos, upon the San Jacinto and Buffalo Bayou, are considerable settlements. Upon the latter stood Harrisburgh, which was burnt by the Mexicans two days before the battle of San Jacinto; and upon the same stream, a few miles above the site of Harrisburgh, is now laid out the new town of Houston.

Ten miles west of the mouth of the Brazos, the San Bernard, a fine river of more than 100 miles in length, falls into the gulf. Occasional settlements are found upon this river, from within a few miles of its mouth nearly to its source. Its course is nowhere more than twenty miles from that of the Brazos: between them is a prairie, from two to ten miles broad, extending from Columbia to San Felipé, a distance of ninety miles. Six miles west of the San Bernard is the outlet of Cedar Lake, a creek of some thirty or forty miles in length, on which are a number of fine plantations. It derives its name from unfolding its waters into the form of a lake, of a mile or two in circumference, within a few miles of its mouth.

Ten miles yet further west, is the mouth of Caney, whose broad, fertile and easily subdued bottom-lands have already acquired a celebrity over most of the United States. The plantations bordering this stream are already numerous, and rapidly increasing: 4000 lbs. of seed cotton, equal probably to 1500 lbs. of clean, is the annual product of a single acre of Caney bottoms, when well subdued, and properly cultivated. The length of this stream, whose borders are pronounced by all who have witnessed their growing or gathered crops to be of unequalled fertility, is between eighty and ninety miles. It has its source within a few hundred yards of the bank of the Colorado: this circumstance, viewed in connexion with the immense breadth of its alluvial bottoms, so disproportioned to the size of the present stream, has led to the conjecture that it once formed the main channel of that river. Its mouth is obstructed by a sand-bar, so shallow as to forbid the entrance of boats of the smallest size: within the bar, the smaller class of steamboats might, during the greater part of the year, ascend a distance of fifty miles. Six miles from its mouth, it ranges within less than one mile of the head of Matagorda bay, with which it was to have been connected by a canal, at this point, during the past season. The war must, however, have prevented its accomplishment: when peace revisits the country, the rich freight of Caney cotton will soon force an outlet into this fine bay, where its small boats will be sheltered from the rough swell of the gulf. Matagorda bay is estimated to be about seventy miles in length. It extends but very little into the interior; but lies parallel with the gulf, from which it is separated by a peninsula, nowhere much exceeding one mile in width. This tongue of land, which in form probably has no example elsewhere, (being seventy miles, by one,) is evidently of recent formation: not a tree, of any description, is found upon it, from one extremity to the other. A hard beach, of some twenty yards wide, of white sand and shells, lines its outer edge, which is washed by the gulf: this presents an uninterrupted promenade, or carriage-path, which extends along the whole length of the peninsula—and indeed continues to the western inlet of Galveston bay, interrupted only by the outlets of the streams. The peninsula is elsewhere verdant with grass; and, from a lofty elevation, would appear not unlike a green riband, fringed with white.

The Colorado river discharges its waters into the bay by two mouths, four miles apart, about fifty miles from Passe Cavallo, its only entrance from the gulf, and about twenty miles westerly from its head. The settlements upon this river were begun some years later than those upon the Brazos, this part of the country being more exposed to the depredations of hostile savages. When once fully explored however, such was the

tempting beauty of the landscapes upon its borders, that no dangers could deter the settlers from seeking an abode in a region, that in appearance, realized their most seducing dreams of a paradise upon earth.

The first settlements on this river were made only five or six years before the Mexican invasion. They had already extended in detached neighborhoods, from the mouth nearly to the mountains, a distance of about 200 miles, and the inhabitants had begun to sleep in some degree of security from the lurking savage, who seldom, however, ventured within rifle-shot of a plantation, but often prowled around the skirts, ready to pounce upon the unarmed, but oftener to enter the prairies under cover of night, and carry away the horses of the settlers; when the Mexican war drove them all temporarily from their homes, and emboldened the savages to visit the frontiers in such numbers, as to render it unsafe for the inhabitants of the upper settlements to return.

The lapse of a single year, would have placed the settlements upon this river, as far north as the mountains, beyond all fear of the small band of Indians who wander upon its northern borders; as arrangements had been made for the location of several hundred families from the United States, in the neighborhood of the upper settlements, many of whom were on the way when the news of the Mexican war reached them.

Sites of future cities are marked at many points upon this river. Matagorda at its mouth, and Mina 140 miles above, were villages of 50 or 60 houses. During the past year, the former has been visited by the Mexicans, and the latter burnt by the Indians.

West of the Colorado, in this division, settlements of some extent are found upon the La Baca, and a few families upon some fine creeks between. Cox's point, at the mouth of the La Baca, has also been marked for a city. The work was begun, and for a year or two before the war, this city, perhaps of a single store, enjoyed a brisk trade with the interior.

To the foregoing enumeration of the different settlements in this division of Texas, we have only to add a few clusters of eight or ten families, each located at different points on the undulating lands, away from the principal rivers.

There is no means of making an accurate estimate of the whole number of inhabitants here. A rough estimate made by an inhabitant of the country, whose means were equal at least, to those of any other, put the number of whites at 25,000, before the war; of this number, about one third were supposed to be located near the Brazos.

Of this population the adults are almost exclusively from the United States, there being very few Europeans, and fewer yet of

Mexicans among them. Every state in the union has contributed more or less, Tennessee, perhaps, the largest share, and Kentucky would probably come next; Georgia and Alabama, have latterly contributed most largely.

There may be "murderers and outlaws" among them, as there is elsewhere upon the earth, and some few perhaps, who, tired of waiting for a general jubilee, fled their country, to shake off the burden of debt. But if the present inhabitants entered the country with "diseased morals," there is a reforming influence there, which should commend it to some few who are left behind, especially, if evil speaking be a sin. Whether the purifying influence is in the air, earth, or water, *learned casuists* must decide; but certain it is, that the traveller will not seek elsewhere for a more industrious, sober, and *honest* population, than he now finds in Texas. In the higher and nobler virtues, which alone can elevate a people to the most enviable rank, they seem to be nowise deficient, since no people have been more severely tried, or exhibited in bolder relief, the virtues which are the very opposites of knavery and villany.

It is only the idle and the vicious, the sharper and the swindler, who are disappointed in Texas; the former finds no associates, and the latter no victims. The people are too busy to please the one, and too intelligent to become the prey of the other, and this class of emigrants either reform from necessity, or leave the country in disgust. Finding not the vice and folly which they sought, they avenge themselves for the disappointment, by circulating the idle tales of "murderers and outlaws in Texas." The inhabitants of Texas were not driven there; neither the uplifted arm of justice, nor the lawless hand of oppression, forced them from their homes in the United States. That they were drawn there by an adventurous spirit, which many will deem wild and extravagant, and in which few can fully sympathize, must be admitted. But it is a spirit that has long characterized their countrymen, and to which they are indebted for almost all that they possess, of which they may be justly proud, and directed, as in this case, to the most laudable objects; it is a spirit that needs never to be repressed, but should find the highest encouragement.

The settlement of Texas was an enterprise which demanded sacrifices in the outset, and presented hardships and dangers to be encountered in the pursuit, requiring a degree of energy and courage which seldom belongs to feeble minds; and if the objects of the enterprise are duly considered, it will appear that they are not such as stimulate the vicious and depraved, either to make sacrifices, or encounter hardships and dangers in their attainment. These considerations would seem to speak favorably for the

character of the population here, but the idle rumors before alluded to, have, notwithstanding, prepossessed almost all minds; and the virtuous, no less than the vicious, on visiting Texas, are disappointed in the character of its inhabitants, the former in finding it not what they feared, but all they could have desired.