WASHINGTON, May 4.

SURVEY OF THE COAST OF ORLEANS WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

The description contained in the following report of the sea board of a part of our Territory so very little known, cannot at this moment, we presume, be uninteresting to our readers:

REPORT

Of the Secretary of the Treasury, agreeably to the resolution of the Senate, of the 20th December, 1810, on the Survey of the coasts of the United States—made to the Senate of the United States, Feb. 4, 1811.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
February 2d, 1811.

SIR—I have the honor, in obedience to the resolution of the Senate of the 20th December, 1810, to transmit copies of the instructions given for carrying into effect the thirteenth section of the act of the 21st April, 1806, and of the report of the survey, so far as the same was executed; and also a chart of the entrance and passes of the rivers of bayous Teche and Atchafalaya. Detailed surveys of the navigation of the river Teche as far as navigable for sea vessels have been also executed and the plat deposited in this office.

It is believed that the part of the survey which has been completed, is the most important of that coast, and that it has been well executed. But the work consumed much more time, and a greater portion of the appropriation than had been apprehended; for which reason the remainder has not been surveyed.

In addition to the surveys abovementioned, the bayou on which the Balize stands was also examined, and the most proper island for the erection of a light house at the entrance of the Mississippi, has been selected.

I have the honor to be, &c.
ALBERT GALLATIN.

The Honorable the President of the Senate.

[Here follow the instructions of the Secretary of the Treasury to Mr Lewis de Mun, instructiong him in what manner to perform the survey, &c. &c.]

REPORT

Of survey of coast of the Territory of Orleans, pursuant to the act of April 21st, 1806.

BY
LEWIS DE MUN.

To the hon. Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury.

WASHINGTON, July 20 1807.

SIR,

I do myself the honor to transmit to you the result of my operations on the coast of Louisiana. I regret, infinitely, that I have it not in my power to give you a detailed knowledge of that part of the sea coast which I was ordered to survey; but being limited to a period of six months, for my whole work, I hardly had time to take a general view of that very intricate and dangerous coast, and to begin my operations, by completing a survey of the pass of the Chafalaya, and of the Bayou Teche, before it was expired, and I was obliged to return. What I have done will give you some idea of the patience, perseverance and labor which will be required to complete this undertaking, and also prove that it will be a work of no short time.

I left Philadelphia, July 30, 1806, and after a tedious passage arrived in New-Orleans on the 12th of September following; I immediately applied, according to your instructions, to the collector of the port for the revenue cutter that was to carry me on my survey. The cutter was in the river, but did not get up to town until several days afterwards, and having suffered a little in her sails and rigging, on the dreadful night of the hurricane (the night of the 14th of September) she was necessarily detained some time to repair, a very difficult matter in New-Orleans. We did not leave the city before the 12th of October, and arrived at the Balize on the 14th. I examined and surveyed some islands at the mouth of the Mississippi, on one of which it was intended to build a light house. I also examined the foundation near the block-house, and found it better than on the island; but nevertheless, the island seemed to me a situation very far superior, for a number of reasons, which I explained in the first report I had the honor to transmit to you, and to which I have nothing more to add.* I left the Balize on the 22d of October, proceeded to the westward, and arrived on the 25th in sight of Belleisle, the place where I was to begin my survey. The shoals and oyster banks extending out to sea between 4 and 5 leagues, and leaving only a narrow and intricate Channel render the entrance of the Chafalaya very difficult and dangerous, and although the captain had been here once before, we were three days getting in, and we ran ashore several times. I have taken accurate soundings at this place, and find that it would be impossible to bring in more than 7 feet water, and not always as much. On account of all these difficulties, and the bad weather, it was impossible for me to begin my survey before the 31st of October.

I entered on my operations at the mouth of a bayou to the westward of Belleisle, which by every account, is the best pass of the Chafalaya, into which last river the Teche empties itself.—From the mouth of this Bayou, upwards to the Chafalaya, I never found less than one and a half fathoms water, and sometimes as much as nine and ten.—In the navigation of this Bayou there is no difficulty to encounter, but its narrowness and sudden turns, which make it almost impossible to sail up unless the wind should favour you very much. I would always advise vessels bound up the Teche, to go to the main branch of the Chafalaya, which falls into the sea in the same bay, about five leagues to the eastward of the Belleisle. The narrowness of this bayou, the impossibility of landing on account of the marshes, and a little higher up towards the Chafalaya, the trees hanging over the water, almost half way across the bayou rendered its survey very tedious, and the progress very slow.

About one and a half leagues above the place where this bayou, (which is called the little Wax bayou) branches out of the Chafalaya, are found the first plantations. The Chafalaya here is a most beautiful river, about three-fourths of a mile wide, and having from twelve to twenty-four fathoms of water in the channel: the tide is felt here very strongly; and when the wind has been for some length of time from the southward and eastward the waters rises as much as four feet, but the greatest flood in the Mississippi never raises it more than three feet. This information I had from one Samuel Rice, who lives on an island of his own name and the first plantation on this river. Below this there is nothing but marsh to be found, but here the land is about six feet above the level of the water at low water, and is never overflowed. It is covered with the most beautifnl timber, principally live oaks and green oaks, of various species. The land is excellent, and would produce sugar canes and cotton very well; but the inhabitants here are too poor to attempt any thing of this kind; they are satisfied in raising a little corn and sweet potatoes, sometimes a few sugar canes to make rum, and a little cotton for their own use; they are great hunters, and game being in great plenty, they live in a great measure by hunting.

About three leagues above the Wax bayou, the river branches out into different directions: the first that opens to the westward, is by some, called the Teche; by others, it is considered only as a branch of the Chafalaya, into which the Teche empties itself, about three leagues higher up: the second branch runs more to the northward, and may be called the northwest branch: the third is a very short bayou, which communicates between the great lake and the river, there is through this lake a water communication with the Mississippi, and this is the route which is generally followed to go and come from New Orleans, with light canoes or pirogues.—I surveyed the western branch about three or four leagues up, that is, as far as where the Teche empties itself into it. The Teche thence runs to the westward, & the branch to the northward, and by means of a canal joins the Mississippi. It is the best and I believe the only way for those large barges that carry on the trade of this part of the Attakapas to go to New Orleans. The Teche is a very narrow bayou, and its navigation is tedious; but 1 1-4 fathoms of water can be carried up at all times as high as New Iberia; but not higher on account of the number of large trees (or planters as they are called) which obstruct the navigation and render it navigable only for small pirogues. The land on this bayou is very good; both sides of the bayou are lined with trees, almost all the way up, but behind this kind of hedge which is very narrow, except in a few places, the country present extensive prairies, adorned with a number of small groves entirely unconnected, and which are called by the inhabitants, islands of wood. These praries are never overflowed and are excellent land producing every thing in great perfection.—The planters devote themselves entirely to the culture of cotton, as the most profitable for people who have but a small number of slaves; however, some of the richest planters have made successful attempts to raise sugar; and at Madame St. Mare's, a few miles above New Iberia, I have seen as good and as fine sugar as any in the neighborhood of New Orleans; their riches, however, if they could find a market, would be their cattle; the number they raise on every plantation is almost incredible; did they know how to cure and salt their beef, which they might easily do in the winter season, they might open a very profitable branch of trade with the West Indies.

New Iberia is a very trifling settlement, and certainly does not deserve the name of town. The Spaniards fixed upon this spot to build a town, as being the head of the navigation of the Teche. The government expended about $180,000 on that spot; and at one time collected between 25 and 30 families, who lived in huts: they did not remain long together, but dispersed; and there is not now a single vestige of that town to be seen. The small number of houses that constitute the present town, were built a little lower down the bayou than the former. It is impossible for me to say any thing of the advantages of this situation, being entirely unacquainted with the upper country. The most considerable settlement, I believe, in the whole country, is about three leagues further up the country than New Iberia, and consists of about 50 houses, built round the parish church.

Having carefully surveyed the bayou as far as New Iberia, on the 6th of Jan. I left that place, for the mouth of the Chafalaya, where I intended to begin the survey of the coast, by running westward towards Belleisle and Vermillion bay; we had head winds and bad weather, and did not get down before the 16th. I immediately began my operations, and surveyed part of the coast; but to take the soundings and to find the pass through the shoals and oyster banks, took up a long time. The intricacy of the pass and the extent of the shoals, on which the least breeze raises such a sea that it is impossible to take a bearing from a boat or even to obtain correct soundings, is such that in spite of all my exertions, I found it impossible to go farther than the Point aux Chevreiuls, the easternmost point of the Vermillion bay before the six months, to which I was limited, expired.

Belleisle is one of the most remarkable objects on this coast; it is not an island according to the general sense of the word, but only an island of high woodland, in the midst of very extensive marshes. The approach to the only landing place on the island is difficult, being through a very narrow and crooked bayou but with great depth of water. In the vast and uniform level of marsh and water, which fatigues the eye, on this coast, it is truly surprising to see an island rise about 150 feet above the marshes, covered with the most beautiful trees. They are principally live oak and green oaks. Some of the former I have measured, & found to be from 14 to 18 feet diameter about 3 feet above the ground.

There are the remains of the trunk of a live oak which has been burnt, which form a circle of 20 feet in diameter. The island contains between three and four hundred acres of most excellent land. There is at the foot of the hill, on the north side, a sulphurous spring; about which pure sulphur is found in large veins, only a few inches below the surface of the ground. There are at least five or six claimants to this island, and all pretend to have grants from the crown of Spain. In the mean time, one of them of the name of Watson, has placed a tenant on the Island; but they raise nothing, living almost entirely by hunting, the island being full of wild hogs, and the marshes and small islands about the coast abounding in deers and bears.

We left Belle Island on the 14th of February; but on account of bad weather and contrary winds, we were four days getting clear of the shoals; on the 19th we were compelled by bad weather to run into the bay of Barataria, about 20 leagues to the westward of the Mississippi. The bay of Barataria is the best harbor on all the coast from the Miesissippi to the Sabine; ten feet of water can be carried in, and you may ride inside in six and seven fathoms, in perfect safety. There is also a good communication from this bay to New Orleans, for pirogues or boats, by going through several lakes and up the bayou Barataria, till you come to the race of a saw mill, up which you proceed to the mill. The boat must then be hauled through the mill by the works which bring up the saw logs.——This race joins the bayou with the Mississippi, about three leagues above New-Orleans; with a moderately fair wind you may go from the bay to New Orleans in a day and a half or two days.—This bay is an excellent harbor for vessels falling to the leeward of the Mississippi, for besides good shelter, water, fish and oysters, are found in great plenty and their are several plantations along the coast, where cattle and poultry may easily be got. We left this bay on the 22d, in the evening anchored outside of the bar of the S. W. pass of the Mississippi; but in the night we were blown off the coast, and were three days beating against contrary winds before we could make the Balize; we remained three days more in sight of it, without being able to get in on account of the fogs & contrary winds. At last we got into the river, and arrived at New Orleans on the 8th of March. There I was disappointed in my expectation of finding new instructions. The six months were expired, and consequently my pay was stopt.—To this, anxiety on account of my friends, from whom I had not heard for eight months, was added; for all my private letters were intercepted, whether transmitted to me by post or by private hands. However, I waited three weeks more; but at the expiration of that time, having heard nothing new, I took my passage back to the Atlantic states.

In ascertaining astronomically the latitude and longitude of prominent points, I was less successful than I had hoped to be. All the instruments procured for me were excellent excepting the chronometer, on which I found I could not rely. I have, however, determined the longitude of Belle Isle, by the mean of two sets of observations of the sun and moon, to be long W. of Greenwich 91 deg. 24 min. 53 sec. lat. 29 deg 27 min. 16 sec. N; and of New Iberia, long. W. of Greenwich 91 deg. 52 min. 00 sec. lat. 30 deg. 00 min. 32 sec. N. The variation of the compass 7 deg. 32 min. E. along the coast which I have surveyed.

If you have the goodness to consider, sir, that there was a month lost in New Orleans in fitting out the cutter; another month at least in going from New Orleans to Belle Isle, and back again; about ten days in coming down from New Iberia to the mouth of the Chafalaya; and, that I could not be actually employed in my survey more than about three months and twenty days; and if from this time all the bad days on which the weather prevented any operations are struck off, especially between the middle of January to the middle of February, which time was so remarkably cold, rough and windy, on that coast, that the cutter generally rode with three anchors out; you will see sir, that as much has been done as it was possible to do against so many obstacles, and with the scanty means I had. Conscious of the exertions I made, and of the zeal I have felt, to fulfil your intentions, I doubt not that you will be satisfied with my endeavor to be, as far as laid in my power useful to the United States.

I am, sir,
With respect,
Your humble servant,
(Signed) LEWIS DE MUN.

P. S. The above report and the maps attached to it contain all that appears to me to be required by your instructions, as far as they relate to that part of my duty which it was possible for me to execute within the limits of the time allotted to me. I will, however add a few remarks, which seem to me may be useful in obtaining knowlenge of that part of the territory of the United States.

The Chafalaya may be entered by two passes. That to the westward is laid down in my map; the other, to the eastward called the pass of Point au Fer, is much more difficult of access, but leads more immediately to the main branch of the Chafalaya, and is the best when the wind favors its navigation; it was impossible for me to survey this pass, or even to lay down the Point au Fer. To give directions for entering either of these passes is impracticable, unless they were marked by beacons: buoys could be of little service, for when there is any brisk wind the trough of the sea on the flats is so deep as to bury them. It must also be generally remarked, that at the nearest distance at which even Belle Isle can be described, about five leagues, there is no more than two fathoms of water at the most, and about 4 leagues at the mouth of the west pass only one and half a fathoms.—My map therefore, exhibits only a small part of a most extensive, dangerous and intricate navigation; which can only be rendered less perilous by the erection of beacons, which should be made of high masts, painted alternately white and black.

The situation of Belle Isle, although so commanding and so conspicuous, offers no military position of any possible use, but as means of preserving the health of the troops in the sickly season in which respect it deserves attention, it might also be made a place to shelter and a DEPOT of military and naval stores for the flotilla of gun boats, that wolud be employed to protect the coast. The Chafalaya and the bayou furnish very convenient and easy means of inland communication with N. Orleans, and every other port on the Missisippi, in small boats. The inland voyage thence to New Orleans may be performed in 4 or 5 days. But a stout fort at the point at which the Teche, the Chafalaya, and the pass to the great lake, meet, connected with a fortified post at the bayou Fourche, would completely command the navigation at the Attakapas.

It appears to me to be of immense importance to the interest of the U. S. in that part of the Union, to possess a perfect knowledge of the whole of this inland communication, and to obtain a map of all the numerous entrances to the Mississippi between the Chafalaya and New-Orleans. The Chafalaya is the last of these communications westward, as far as my information goes, but eastward are many others, all of equal but of no greater difficulty of access; and an enemy having a sufficient number of small boats, or seizing the pirogues of the country, could reach New-Orleans without any notice of their approach.

There is a portage from the Teche to Vermillion bay of only four miles. By this portage the Spaniards conveyed immense quantities of bullion and specie from Vera Cruz and the coast of Mexico, in small gun boats, running within the oyster banks, islands and shoals—and thus escaped the possibility of pursuit or capture by an enemy. When once embarked on the Teche, an easy inland navigation conveyed the treasure to New-Orleans. From whence with a fair wind the Havana might be reached in 24 hours. The gun boats draw about five feet of water, and generally mounted two brass nine or six pounders.

The bottom along the whole coast consist of a soft mud and broken shells. This generally muddy bottom, from a little to the eastward of Point au Fer, is formed into innumerable crooked channels, bounded on each side by oyster banks, and these are the only channels that give access to the shore; the lead is the only means of discovering the mouths of these channels, and it not unfrequently happens that after following one of these channels, for a mile or more, it is closed, and it is necessary to return and try another.—From this alone the difficulty of a survey of this coast may be imagined.

*This report, which has been so far acted upon as to make a selection of a proper scite for a light house, has been mislaid. The drafts are at the Treasury; and the report stated that the soil was clay, and no water found after boring to the depth of forty-five feet No contract has yet been obtained for building a light-house.

The following is a translation of the first or introductory number, of the American Patriot, printed at Havanna, by Don Nicholsa Palmer. The publisher promises that as soon as the type shall be received from the United States, which is momently expected, it will be published in three sheets every Monday, at 12 reals per annum, until which it will be issued on a single sheet—one peso to be paid on the delivery of the second No. *(American.*

EL PATRIOTA AMERICANO.

INTRODUCTION.

Pulchurum est benefacere Reipublicæ, etiam benedicere haud absurdum est.

It is honorable to do good to the republic; even to speak well of it is not unpleasant. SALLUST.

The reign of tyranny has ceased, and that of liberty commences. Despotism is expiring, and ignorance to the influence of justice & reason. After a lapse of so many years of continued suffering, after having groned for so long a period under the pressure of the iron sceptre of the most offensive despotism; and still laboring under the evils occasioned by the late system, what shall we utter but truths terrible and painful? Now that the liberty of the press has constituted every individual a defender of his country's rights, and enjoined on him as a duty the assertion of his own prerogative and laws, who shall refuse its sacred influence? Can it be expected that smarting from the abuses of a constitution cemented in the most horrid perversion of justice and law, truth shall be phrased over or silence preserved? Such be the conduct of the slaves of Asiatic despotism. While they groan beneath the execrable yoke of fanaticism and power, let us, free beings, assert our rights, and resist every system disgraceful or humiliating to the nature of man; let us proclaim truths destructive to agonizing tyranny, and cry out against the evils that oppress us! To feign a want of feeling, would be a tacit approbation of their continuance; and not to insist on general reform, would be a dereliction of principle worthy of our oppression.—The mysterious curtain is already drawn that veils the public administration; and the people have entered the sanctuary of truth, to pry into its secrets, and take upon themselves its administration. Let them without dread instruct themselves in the abuses which have existed, and which, existing still, having occasioned the loss of public confidence; and let the most efficacious remedies be had recourse to for their final abrogation. Let the dark intricacies, to which despotism has recourse in its operations, disappear at our budding. Let the whole be displayed to the eyes of the nation, and the public voice be heard in the oppression of its will—Let it be understood that no longer in its former trammels, its confidence can no longer be abused; that it has recovered its rights and its supremacy. Vain, otherwise, would be the annunciation of beneficial events; it would be the delusive representation of a flattering prospect.

Men are no longer to be governed by absurd principles: they *will* be led by the reins of justice, equality & reason. If these laws are neglected, convulsions the most horrid will mark the footsteps of ignorance and despotism. Man, seeing his natural dignity outraged, his rights contemned, the laws themselves the means of his debasement, disregarding every principle of equity, shuts his eyes in fury, and rushes on vengeance and destruction. Who will then restrain his arm, raised in his