more distant to which it leads, must be placed as near as possible to its upper waters, where they first begin to be navigable for boats.

These waters probably approach much nearer to the Atlantick than has hitherto been believed. We have seen that at Bamakoo, the highest point to which it has yet been traced, it is a mile wide: as large as the Susquehanna at its entrance into the Chesapeake bay. It must therefore be a very considerable stream, much higher up; that is much farther to the south-west, and consequently much nearer to the Atlantick. It has its source in the western part of a chain of mountains, which runs from West to East, nearly parallel with that part of the coast of Africa, which extends from Sierra Leone to the Bite of Benin. These mountains separate it from the rivers, which rising on their southern side fall into the Atlantick, in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone. Their sources no doubt approach very near to those of the Niger. Probably no great distance divides its navigable waters from theirs. Such a river, with a good port at or near its mouth, and a fertile country on its banks, would present the proper situation for a colony, planted with a view to the civilization of Africa, by the commerce of the Niger.

The course of such a commerce would be, to ascend the Atlantick river as far as possible in boats, with the commodities wanted for the interior consumption; and to establish at that point a place of deposit, from whence the merchandize would be sent over land to the Niger, and down it to the various markets below. The returns would go up the ~~river~~ Niger to its highest navigable point, where a town would soon arise. From thence they would partly land to the place of deposit on the other side of the mountain, and there be put into boats, for transportation down the river, to the shipping port. If the river should be ascertained to continue its course to the Ocean, an intercourse would ~~should~~ gradually be extended down it to its mouth, where a great