

Small game swarms in the country, and the rivers are well stocked with fish. They would apparently be still more so, were they not full of alligators. The prairies are alive with rattlesnakes.¹ On all sides you can perceive only quite level plains extending out of sight, but agreeably intersected by rivers, lakes, and small woods, which form a charming landscape. The fields produce a number of herbs, to which great virtues are ascribed; it is certain, at least, that the Indians use them freely, without being subject to any important malady.

1685.

The most common trees in the woods are chestnuts, walnuts, mulberries, palm-trees of many kinds, and several others unknown in Europe. They all grow exceedingly tall. There are several trees which bear excellent fruit. The vines with which all the woods are studded bear white and red grapes. Besides the ordinary walnuts, there are others larger and very good.² Filberts, mulberries, and banana figs, are found everywhere. Among the fruits peculiar to the country, there is an egg-shaped one that grows on a thorny bush, and is very refreshing. The Spaniards call it Tsonnos, and are very fond of it.³

Mention is also made of a root, very common in this district of Florida, and which some have supposed to be ginger. The Indians pretend that it makes the hair grow, and, under this conviction, rub the head with it after chewing it.⁴ It seldom rains in that country, yet the soil is very fertile. Nor is salt wanting, the sun forming it on the sea-shore and the banks of some lakes, so that it can be had with little trouble beyond that of gathering it.⁵

¹ Joutel here mentions the Horned Frog, pp. 128-130.

² Joutel mentions neither chestnut nor mulberry (pp. 132-3); though F. Anastasius mentions the latter. The large nut is the pecan.

³ Joutel, p. 132. Perhaps the

fruit of the opuntia vulgaris, or prickly-pear.

⁴ Joutel and F. Anastasius are silent as to this plant.

⁵ Joutel, p. 100; Cavelier, Relation, p. 15. The most remarkable Salt lake is in Hidalgo county.