

women or girls taken from the hospitals of Paris, or from the *salpêtrière*, or other places of equally good repute, who find that the laws of marriage are too severe, and the management of a house too irksome. A voyage of four hundred leagues does not terrify these heroines; I already know two of them whose adventures would furnish material for a romance. 2nd, The travelers; these, for the most part, are young men sent to the Mississippi "for various reasons" by their relatives or by the law, and who, finding that the land lies too low for digging, prefer to hire themselves to row and to ply from one shore to the other. 3rd, The hunters; these at the end of summer ascend the Mississippi for two or three hundred leagues, to the country where there are cattle; they make *plats côtés*,—that is to say, they dry in the sun the flesh that is on the flanks of those animals,—and salt the rest; they also make bear's oil; toward spring, they descend the river and supply the Colony with meat. The country between here and new Orleans renders this trade necessary, because it is not sufficiently inhabited or sufficiently cleared for cattle to be raised in it. They begin to find wild cattle only at 30 leagues from here; these animals roam in herds over the prairies, or along the rivers; last year a Canadian brought down to new Orleans four hundred and eighty tongues of cattle that he and his partner alone had killed during the winter.

We left the *Chapitoulas* on the 29th. Although they had sent us a larger pirogue, and notwithstanding the new stowage of baggage and of our people, we had almost as much difficulty as before. We had to make only two leagues that day in order to spend