

commerce of New Orleans is increasing; most of it is carried on with the islands of the West Indies. Vivier suggests that the tobacco of Louisiana be used in France, thus benefiting both countries. The French settlements along the river are enumerated; the only French post above Natchez is at the Arkansas, but there should be one at the mouth of the Ohio, to control that river.

Vivier proceeds to describe the Illinois country. That fertile soil would, with better culture, yield a far greater harvest; but the French settlers have cropped it recklessly, and take no pains to renew its fertility. Maize, however, "grows marvelously; it yields more than a thousandfold. . . . The country produces three times as much food as can be consumed in it." Wild game is abundant, and cattle-raising is a staple industry among the habitants. The mineral resources of the country are enormous, but lack of capital and other facilities prevents their development. Salt and lead are produced, and exported to all the French settlements outside of Canada.

All the great Northwest is governed by the Illinois commandant; Vivier sighs over the vast field thus offered to the missionaries' zeal, which is barred to his own order, because it is placed in charge of the Missions Étrangères—who, however, make no attempt to occupy it, save to minister to the French parishes on the Mississippi. Vivier hears that the Pawnee tribes on the Missouri are well disposed toward the Christian faith. Their new chief has established a marvelous innovation, by making regular and definite provision for the widows and orphans of the tribe. This man has visited the