

risers near the tributaries of the Red & Missouri rivers, and altho' in many parts rapid, is ascended by the traders 600 miles in batteaux. It is used also as a principal channel of communication with the Red river. It runs through a fertile country well watered and generally well timbered. The woodland is bounded by prairies of vast extent. 600 miles from its mouth are 3 trading houses in opposition—one is owned by the S. W. Co.

A fort is to be erected on the N. bank of the St. Peters at its junction with the Mis. on a very high and elevated bluff. It will command both rivers.

WEDNESDAY, August 2d.

Before 9 this morning we bade the gentlemen of the garison farewell, and embarked. They had been very polite and attentive to us during our stay. At the mouth of the St. Peters is a large island of alluvial soil, heavily timbered and very fertile. Immediately below it are many very beautiful islands. These and the banks afford a pleasing view. It is $4 \frac{1}{2}$ miles to a cave generally called "the new Stone house." Several of us entered it 350 yds. with great difficulty, being compelled to creep the whole distance on our knees, and brace up on each side to avoid falling into a stream of water which runs on its bottom, and by which the cave appears to have been formed. In some places its depth could not be ascertained. Some entered the cave 403 yds. and did not find its extremity. About 100 yds. from its mouth it expands into an opening of near 15 by 20 feet, and has the appearance of an arched room. Nearly on a level with where the bed of the stream once was, and between the strata of white sand stone is a strata of alluvial soil in which are still found roots of trees. It can scarcely be supposed a deposit, for it has every appearance of having been placed here regularly with the sand stone. Three & $\frac{1}{2}$ miles farther is another cave similar to this, and is called the Stone house. At the mouth of the first cave it is said Carvers name can be traced on the rock and the year in which he visited it.