

and they can on that account be easily reduced to the cultivation of any other product. This is the tribe from whom we experience the best treatment, and in whom we find the most docile disposition.

Tribe of the Majas [Omaha]

This tribe is composed of four hundred and fifty or five hundred warriors. The name of the principal chief of this tribe is El Pajaro Negro [Blackbird]. They are located some two hundred and eighty leagues from this village, about thirty-five or forty leagues overland from the Panis tribe, on a small tributary to the Misury, at a distance of about sixty leagues from the mouth of the Plata River.⁸² Their occupation has always been, and is, that of hunting beaver, deer, buffalo, and stags, from which results the trade of this post. This tribe is hostile to that of the Canzes but we have never experienced any harm from this tribe. Their occupation in the cultivation of the soil extends only to the planting of maize and pumpkins for their necessary support.

The Big Osages

This tribe is composed of eight hundred warriors. The name of the principal chief of this tribe is Cleromon [Clermont]. They are located by water one hundred and eighty leagues from this village, and overland about one hundred and

⁸² For this tribe see *ante*, p. 188, note 42. The chief Blackbird is noted in legendary annals. He was reputed to be a great magician, and able to cause the death of any one whom he wished. This power was said to have been due to his possession of arsenic, with which he poisoned his enemies. See accounts of his fame in "Bradbury's Travels," in *Early Western Travels*, v, pp. 85, 86; and in "Brackenridge's Journal," *Id.*, vi, p. 82. According to Lewis and Clark, he died in 1800, when a great epidemic of smallpox destroyed a large portion of the tribe. The hill on which he was buried was for many years a prominent landmark on the Missouri. The principal village was on a small creek called Omaha, about seventy miles above the city that now takes their name. See description in "Long's Expedition," *Id.*, xiv, pp. 288, 289.—ED.