

**MAP**  
**AND DESCRIPTION**  
**OF**  
**TEXAS**  
**1840**

#8369  
with map

- Not in Radar

Howes M764

8 plates, folding colored map

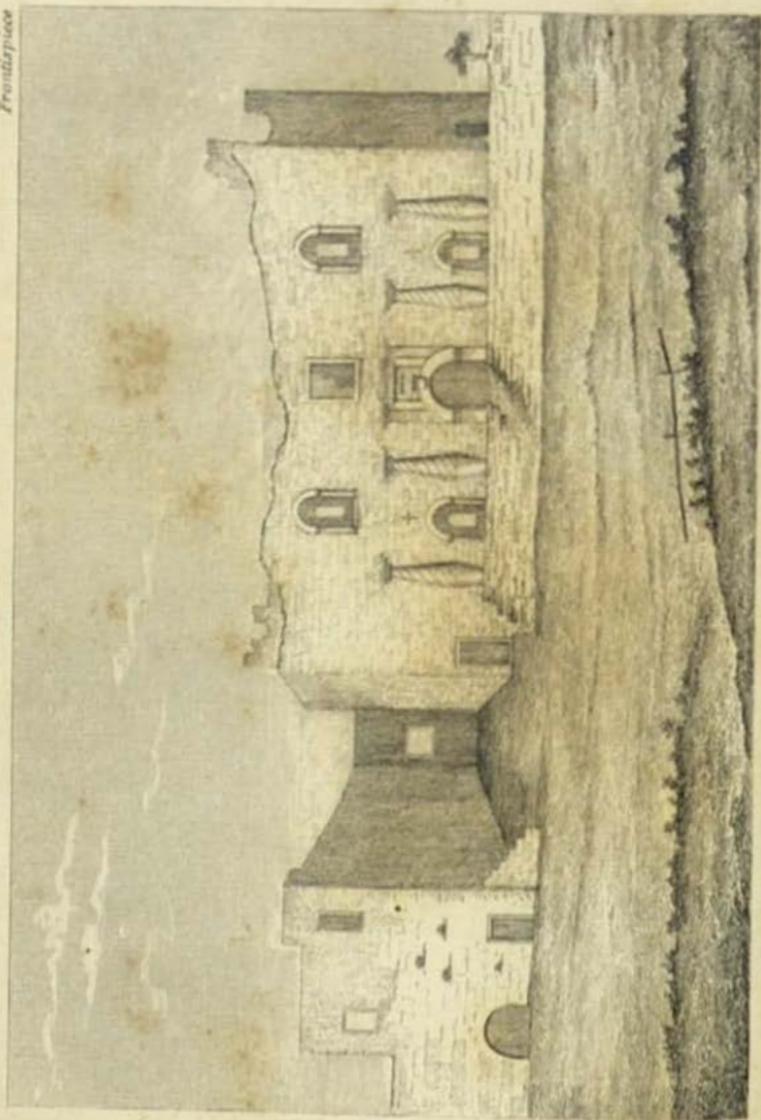
Streeter 1363 (locates 3  
herbar specimens)

(Errors, Map, Plates are  
often lacking)

Map is from same plate as  
Austin's 1830 map with many  
changes and additions.

0124A

Frontispiece



MAP  
AND DESCRIPTION  
OF  
TEXAS,

CONTAINING  
SKETCHES OF ITS HISTORY, GEOLOGY, GEO-  
GRAPHY AND STATISTICS:

*With concise statements,*

RELATIVE TO THE SOIL, CLIMATE, PRO-  
DUCTIONS, FACILITIES OF TRANS-  
PORTATION, POPULATION OF  
THE COUNTRY ;

And some Brief Remarks

*Upon the Character and Customs of its Inhabitants.*

BY

FRANCIS MOORE, JR.,

EDITOR OF THE TELEGRAPH AND TEXAS REGISTER.

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PHILADELPHIA:  
H. TANNER, JUNR.,  
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TANNER & DISTURNELL,

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1840.

Entered, according to act of Congress, in the year 1840,

By H. S. TANNER,

in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Eastern  
District of Pennsylvania.

## P R E F A C E.

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THE following work comprises the result of the author's observations and experience during the period of his residence in Texas, and includes such other information regarding it, as he has been enabled to collect from other sources. It has been hurried before the public, at the urgent request of many friends, who have suggested, that the want of an accurate work of the kind, would furnish a sufficient excuse for any imperfections it may contain. The author has endeavoured to embody as large a number of facts relating to the statistics and topography of Texas, in as small a space as possible; and he has been less regardful of the drapery of language in which those facts are clothed, than in relation to their general accuracy. The descriptions of the counties have been compiled with much care. Most of them have been frequently subjected to the examination of intelligent residents of the respective counties, and have been carefully revised agreeably to their

## PREFACE.

directions. The author has resided in Texas for several years and has visited many of the sections he describes; his sketches are the more valuable therefore, from the fact that they are chiefly drawn from personal observation. Several of these sketches have previously been published in the Telegraph and Texas Register. They have been subsequently revised, and are as accurate and extensive as the present limited explorations of the country will warrant.

## TEXAS.

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*Boundaries and Area.*—Texas is bounded on the north and east by the United States, south by the Gulf of Mexico and west by Mexico. The Red River forms part of its northern boundary, the Sabine part of the eastern, and the Rio Grande part of the western boundary. Its extreme northern and southern limits touch the 42d and 26th degrees of north latitude. Its boundaries as defined by an act of Congress, approved Dec. 19th 1836, are as follows: viz. "Beginning at the mouth of the Sabine river, and running west along the Gulf of Mexico, three leagues from land, to the mouth of the Rio Grande; thence up the principal stream of said river to its source; thence due north to the forty-second degree of north latitude; thence along the boundary line as defined in the treaty between the United States and Spain to the beginning." Its area comprises about three hundred and eighty thousand square miles. It is divided into thirty-two counties, forming fourteen senatorial districts.

*Surface.* This country presents every variety of surface, from the extended plain to the lofty mountain. At the south, a level region varying

in width from twenty to seventy-miles, extends along the coast from the Sabine to the Rio Grande. This level section is widest near the Brazos and narrowest near the San Antonio river. It is furrowed by many deep ravines, which form the channels of the numerous streams that intersect the country. These streams are bordered by dense forests, varying from half of one mile to six miles in width. The intervening country is mostly open prairie. The forests, however, do not extend quite to the coast, but terminate within a distance of about five miles from the sea shore; the intervening country is so entirely open, that from the beach in most places, not a tree can be seen, and the eye rests upon a wide grassy plain, diversified only by a few stunted bushes. Above this level region, the country becomes gradually undulating; presenting a continued series of broad swelling knolls, and wide shallow valleys. Circumstances indicate that this section was once level, and has been gradually changed to its present features by the erosive action of rains, which during centuries have been wearing down its surface. The prairies and woodlands in this region alternate in the most picturesque manner; forming some of the most beautiful scenery in nature. The prairies are generally small, and interspersed with groves, resembling islets in a grassy lake. The forest trees attain a larger size here than those in the level region, and the forests are more widely diffused over the surface. Springs are

not unfrequent in this section, which is irrigated by numerous streams of pure wholesome water. This region varies from thirty to fifty miles in width, being widest near the sources of the San Bernard, and narrowest near the Guadalupe.

Above the undulating region a section of hilly country extends inland about one hundred miles towards the sources of the San Saba. This region, although much less fertile than the sections below it, abounds in the most picturesque and romantic scenery, and is watered by innumerable beautiful streams, flowing over pebbly beds, and forming numerous cascades that would afford excellent mill seats. Few of these hills attain an elevation exceeding five hundred feet; their summits are generally flat, and tufted with dense thickets of cedar.

Beyond this hilly country another level or gently undulating region extends northward towards the Red River. This section is about one hundred miles broad on the meridian of Austin, and gradually widens eastward, and contracts westward of this line. It incloses the great salt lake of the Brazos. It is bounded on the north-west by ranges of mountains, which extend across the north-western portions of Texas, and furnish the sources of the Red River, the Brazos, Colorado and other streams on the east, and the Rio Puerco and other tributaries of the Rio Grande on the west. This mountainous section is but little known; it includes the ranges of the Darh mountains, the hills of Organos near the source of the

Rio Puerco, and the Pillar mountains near the mouth of that stream. It is said that several of these ranges are so high, that snow lies on their summits until August.

*Prairies.*—The prairies of Texas form an important feature of its surface. They comprise about four-fifths of the level region; and nearly one-half of the undulating region lying west of the Brazos. The main prairie lying between the Trinity and San Jacinto is about forty miles long, and its average width about fifteen miles. That between the San Jacinto and the Brazos is one hundred miles long, and its average width is about twenty-five miles. The main prairie between the Brazos and San Bernard is about eighty miles long, and its average width twenty miles. The prairie between the San Bernard and Colorado has about the same dimensions. That between the Colorado and Navidad is about one hundred miles long and about thirty miles wide. The remaining prairies of the level region are of dimensions similarly proportioned to the distances between the principal streams. In the western counties the prairies are beautifully diversified with small groves of timber; most of the prairies of the level region, however, are entirely open, and resemble broad grassy lakes. The soil of the prairies is remarkably uniform in its character throughout the whole country; consisting generally of a black vegetable mould, varying from four inches to four feet in depth, resting upon beds of sandy or clayey loam. This

soil differs but little in fertility from the soil of the bottom lands, and is covered with a dense mat of grass, affording an inexhaustable supply of pasturage to the cattle of the southern planters. There is probably no class of men upon the globe who can live more independently or with less care and labour than the herdsmen of Texas. Their herds of cattle feed out upon the prairies or in the wooded bottoms during the whole year and require almost as little attention as the wild deer. The herdsmen drive them into their pens once a year, and brand the calves in order to distinguish them from their neighbours; this is nearly the only care bestowed upon them. Many of the Texian farmers own several thousand head of cattle and derive from them a very large income.

The scenery of the prairies is too monotonous to be agreeable. The larger prairies from their great extent, may afford the idea of immensity, and astonish and surprise the beholder, like the broad unvaried expanse of the ocean; and the smaller prairies with their even, uniform carpet of verdure, walled in with tall forest trees on every side; may please for a moment, and a moment only: they want the constantly varying charms of novelty peculiar to hilly or mountainous scenery, and the tourist soon becomes fatigued in noting the remarkable uniformity and resemblance of features that characterise them. A traveller starting from the banks of Buffalo bayou on the San Jacinto, after passing through

a narrow belt of woods, westward, sees a broad prairie apparently illimitable in extent, open before him; proceeding still westward a few miles, he finds in the distance a long dark line of woods skirting the horizon at the west; this is the bordering forest of the Brazos; he passes through this forest, which is about five miles broad, and beyond it, sees another broad grassy plain, skirted on the west by another similar line of woods,—the bordering forest of the San Bernard; beyond this, he finds another broad prairie skirted on the west by the “Bottom of the Colorado;” and thus it is from one extremity of Texas to the other; from the Sabine to the Rio Grande, the level region affords a continued succession of similar scenes. The landscapes are but a continued series of prairies skirted by forests.

*Soil.*—This country as its surface indicates, affords almost every variety of soil. In the level and undulating regions the soil is generally exceedingly fertile, consisting in many places of a rich, deep calcarious loam, in which sandy and clayey particles are intimately combined with a carbonaceous vegetable mould. On the banks of several of the streams the soil assumes a mulatto colour, from the abundance of feruginous earth mingled with it. This is peculiarly characteristic of the soils in the vicinity of Red River and the level country, on the Brazos, the Caney and Colorado. The soils on these streams, seem to contain all the elements of fertility, and are probably unsurpassed by any soil on the

globe. The soils of the level and undulating regions differ but little in their chemical constituents, and evince that they have been formed from a common sedimentary deposit. The undulating sections are generally regarded as more fertile than the level country. This may be owing to the fact, that the constituents of the soil in those sections, are more intimately blended than in the level country, consequently the fertilizing influence is more generally diffused. The soil of the hilly region differs widely. In the valleys the alluvial accumulations are generally very deep, and the soil is similar to that of the undulating region; it consists chiefly of a friable, sandy, calcareous loam remarkably fertile. Near the Colorado, it incloses many flinty, rolled pebbles, which are gradually decomposing and imparting to it a siliceous character. The hills have generally a very light thin soil, consisting chiefly of a layer of vegetable mould only a few inches deep, resting upon horizontal strata of limestone. The soils in other sections have not been cultivated, and little is known of their characters. Many of these sections are very fertile, particularly the valley of the Rio Puerco. The soil of this valley is considered by those who have seen it, equal to any on the continent. Texas has been appropriately styled the Garden of America, for it owes its fertility to physical causes similar to those that have rendered Italy the garden of Europe, and Egypt the garden of Africa. It may well bear a comparison with

Italy. It is similarly situated on the great Mediterranean of the continent, and its geological features, with the exception of volcanic products, are similar. Its soil being derived chiefly from the detritus of secondary rocks, resembles that on the banks of the Po; and doubtless if the soil from the banks of the Brazos or Colorado, was compared with that of the Po or Nile, the chemical constituents would be found to be almost precisely similar.

*Productions.*—The principal productions of Texas are similar to those of the Middle and Southern states of “the Union.” In the level and undulating regions, maize, cotton, sugar and tobacco may be raised with great facility. In the hilly sections, wheat, rye, oats and barley thrive well. Peaches, figs and other fruits of warm climates grow luxuriantly in the southern part; and apples, pears, cherries and other similar fruits are raised in the northern part. Fine oranges and lemons have been raised on Galveston bay. Immense quantities of grapes of an excellent quality grow spontaneously in the the western counties. Some varieties of these grapes yield a wine similar to the best Oporto. Large numbers of wild mulberries of a delicious flavour are produced in abundance near Bexar. A species of wild plum of an excellent flavour is found in many of the western counties, and the nopal or prickly pear is found in immense thickets in those sections. The forests furnish vast quantities of valuable timber, consisting of

live-oak, pine, cedar, mesquit which nearly resembles mahogany, bois d'arc, and other timber highly prized for cabinet furniture. It is estimated that the forests of Texas would alone furnish a supply of live-oak sufficient for all the navies in the world. The ordinary crop of cotton in the level and undulating regions, is from a bale to a bale and a half to the acre: of maize, from forty to sixty bushels; of potatoes, from four to eight hundred bushels. Two crops of maize and potatoes are frequently raised the same year. Both the common potatoe and the yam or sweet potatoe thrive well. In the western counties a species of grass grows luxuriantly which closely resembles wheat. The muskit grass which carpets that whole section resembles oats and is almost as valuable as that grain for stock. Wild rye also is found in that section in all the bottom lands and affords during the winter months an inexhaustible supply of pasturage. The few attempts that have been made to cultivate sugar, tobacco and silk, prove that these productions can be raised with great facility, and will, within a short period, become staples of the country. It is found that the sugar cane attains a larger size in Texas than in Louisiana, and, as the climate is milder, a larger portion of the plant matures; consequently the product of sugar to the acre is considerably greater in the former country. Tobacco has been raised only in small quantities; but the result has been flattering in the extreme: the plants attain a large size, and admit

of two or three more cuttings than in Virginia. The flavour of this tobacco closely resembles that of Cuba. Silk culture will probably soon engross the attention of a large portion of the citizens of the country as the climate is admirably adapted to this product. The white mulberry requires as little care here as an ordinary forest tree, and the silk worm is enabled to continue its operations throughout nearly the whole year. We have been informed by intelligent gentlemen that a species of silk worm is a native of Texas, and its cocoons are often found in the forests of the Colorado and other western streams, where the wild mulberry abounds.

*Minerals.*—The sections of Texas, which by their geological features indicate that they contain the largest quantities of valuable minerals, have been but little explored. The mountain ranges that traverse the north-western sections of the country, are probably connected with the ranges of Chihuahua and Santa Fe; which contain valuable mines of gold and silver. A rich mine of sulphuret of lead has been found on the San Saba; and the specimens of the ore from this section, resemble those from Galena. Tradition states, that the Spaniards formerly worked a silver mine near this stream. An extensive and very valuable copper mine has been discovered near the Brazos, about one hundred and fifty miles from "the Falls" on that stream. Saline springs and beds of coal, are found in the vicinity of the Great Salt Lake, through which

the Brazos flows. The hilly and undulating sections contain immense beds of excellent iron ore, and valuable quarries of freestone and limestone. Beds of lignite and salines and sulphur springs are found in these sections. Also gypsum, which is frequently remarkably transparent in the form of silinite. Near the Colorado, great quantities of siliceous minerals are scattered over the surface, and, in some places are so abundant that they render the land almost sterile. They consist chiefly of rolled pebbles of flint, agate, chalcidony, and quartz. The level region affords hardly any minerals worthy of notice. Indeed throughout its whole extent scarcely a stone can be found. The waves of the Gulf occasionally throw upon the beach small fragments of asphaltum and pumice. On Padu Island near the mouth of the Neuces, the waters of the gulf during high tides, flow back into large shallow hollows, like natural pans, where they gradually evaporate and leave the surface coated with a layer of salt several inches deep. Many tons of salt are thus formed every summer.

*Geology.*—Texas affords an extensive and almost unexplored field of investigation to the geologist. The imperfect reconnoissances that have been made, have been wholly confined to the country within two hundred miles of the coast. The small masses of gneiss and granite that have been found in the Colorado in the hilly region, indicate that the primitive and oldest sedimentary rocks may be found near the sources of that

stream; but whether *in situ*, or in boulders or erratic blocks, remains for future researches to prove. If we may believe the narrations of hunters and trappers, however, there can be little doubt that this country embraces all the varieties of geological formations, from the primitive to the most recent of marine and fluvial deposits. The imperfect explorations that have been made, indicate that all the sedimentary rocks of this country have not been subjected to any of those great revolutions that have broken up and contorted the rocky strata in many other parts of America; but have been gradually deposited in a tranquil sea; and as gradually lifted up from its bed, by some process of nature similar to that which is now elevating the shores of Scandinavia. The observations however that confirm this opinion, have been confined to the tertiary and older secondary formations. Along the coast a series of superficial accumulations extend inland from one hundred to one hundred and fifty miles; comprising the whole of the level and undulating regions. These superficial accumulations consist of beds of calcareous, arenaceous and argillaceous substances, generally intimately blended; but in many places the arenaceous or argillaceous constituents predominate, and where they approach the surface, communicate a clayey or sandy character to the soil. These beds vary in thickness; near the coast they may be a hundred feet thick; fifty miles from the coast they are about sixty feet deep, and gradually become

less thick in the higher portions of the undulating region. The bones of the mastadon, and a species of fossil elephant, are found imbedded in this alluvial formation, in the higher portions of the undulating region. Shells similar to those daily thrown upon the Gulf shore, are found imbedded in these deposits, thirty feet above tide water, on the San Jacinto. These superficial accumulations rest upon a coarse sandstone. In some places in the ravines worn by the small streams, a kind of marly or "rotten limestone" is found beneath this sandstone. In the higher portions of the undulating region, the sandstone protrudes through the soil, and in many places is seen in long irregular ridges, which are evidently water-worn, and resemble a rocky beach. Large trunks of silicified trees, two or three feet in diameter, are found lying against the ridges of this description, a few miles east of Lagrange. This sandstone varies greatly in texture. In some places it is composed of coarse sands and comminuted shells, and encloses rolled siliceous pebbles. In others, it is quite fine grained, and resembles freestone.

Above the undulating region, and at the distance of from one hundred to one hundred and fifty miles from the coast, the secondary rocks appear above the surface. They are arranged in strata nearly horizontal and conformable forming hills with flat summits, four or five hundred feet high. These strata consist chiefly of limestones, containing numerous organic fossils,

among which are stellerida ammonites, nantili, and bivalves, belonging to the genera pecten ostraea and gryphaea. Whether these rocks belong to the cretaceous or oolitic systems, or to both, future researches must determine. That they belong to one or both of these groups may be inferred from the fact that they contain stellerida. The soft, white limestones on the immediate borders of the undulating regions, appear to belong to the cretaceous group, and indeed several of these limestones are called chalk by the settlers. Nodular masses of iron pyrites are contained in these limestone strata. The tabular hills further inland, and the greater induration and compactness of the sandstones and limestones in that section, indicate the oolitic system. The geographical extent of these systems, will be the subject of future investigation. The few facts that have been ascertained, induce the belief, that the cretaceous system extends from the banks of the Rio Grande, near Revilla, eastwardly and northwardly by Bexar and Bastrop, to the sources of the Neches; thence turns westwardly and northwardly to the feet of the Pinta hills, between the sources of the San Saba and Colorado; and curves northwardly and eastwardly from them, towards the sources of the Brazos; the line thus formed resembling a syckle with its handle bent backwards. Probably the whole extent of country eastward of this line is covered with superficial accumulations, similar to those of the level and undulating regions bor-

dering the coast. This is merely inferred, from the statements of hunters and rangers who have traversed this extensive section of Texas. They all concur in representing this region as a level or undulating country, in which are many prairies and scattered groves of musquit, post-oak, and other timber. Consequently its surface resembles the undulating region near the coast.

*General remarks.*—From the above mentioned facts it appears, that the whole section of Texas lying within two hundred miles of the coast, and perhaps further inland, has been gradually uplifted from the bed of an ancient sea, into which the great rivers of the country, and possibly at some former day, even the Mississippi also, poured their waters, charged with the detritus of the secondary rocks. This detritus was gradually deposited in sedimentary beds at the bottom of this sea, and gradually deltas similar to those of the Nile and Po, were formed at the mouths of the principal rivers. These deltas at length uniting formed the superficial accumulations of the level and undulating regions. This opinion is still further confirmed by the fact, that the soils in the vicinity of each of the great rivers, are distinguished by the peculiar ingredients of the sediments brought down by the great annual freshets of the present day. In the vicinity of Red River, the soil is so red even many miles from that stream, that those sections are styled the "Redlands." In the vicinity of the Colorado, extensive beds of siliceous pebbles

are found scattered abroad over the country several miles from this stream, and even on low hills now far above the reach of its greatest annual freshets. A superficial examiner might be induced to attribute these beds to a "diluvial" agency. Indeed upon a superficial examination one might readily infer, that a mighty current of water sufficiently powerful to sweep onward immense volumes of mud, sand and stones, varying in size from mere grains, to large paving stones, has at some former period deluged this section, and deposited the present soil upon the sandstones and marly limestones beneath. But a more careful examination will show, that those rolled pebbles are siliceous, and are precisely similar to those that line the banks of the Colorado, and are still brought down by its freshets. It is evident therefore, that while this section was merged beneath the waters of the ancient sea, which once extended over these hills, the Colorado even in that distant period, conveyed the same materials to form its ancient delta, that it does at the present day. These materials, which were at first deposited on the bed of the sea, were swept from place to place by the marine currents, and now, since the waters have retired, appear upon the summits of hills at a distance from the stream whose agency swept them from their parent beds. Too little is known however, of the geology of this section, to authorise speculation; and further facts must be elicited and laborious investigations made, before

any one can decide with confidence whether fluvial, diluvial, or other causes have imparted the present configuration of the surface to this country.

*Climate.*—The climate is so uniformly temperate that the ordinary clothing worn in the New England and Middle States of the "Union" is used by the inhabitants as their ordinary clothing. The summer skies are remarkably clear and serene, and are occasionally diversified by towering piles of cumuli or "thunder clouds," careering along the water courses and shedding down gentle refreshing showers. The heat of summer is seldom oppressive, as a sea breeze springs each morning almost as regularly as sunrise, increases in strength until about two or three o'clock in the afternoon, and gradually declines towards sunset. The nights are quite cool. The winter resembles a protracted "Indian summer." It is however diversified by a few bleak piercing "northers," which are singular peculiarities in the climate of Texas. They prevail between the months of November and April, and generally succeed a season of rain and southerly winds. These winds commonly burst forth so suddenly that the first notice of their advent is a violent gust that almost checks respiration: severe cold immediately follows, and the temperature frequently falls fifteen or twenty degrees in as many minutes. The clouds generally disappear a few hours after their commencement, leaving a clear cold sky. Three

days is generally the extent of their duration. Snow is seldom seen, nor is ice often formed more than half an inch thick. Cattle therefore feed out in the pastures throughout the whole winter.

The climate of the eastern counties of Texas, differs from that of the western counties, in regard to humidity. The rains in eastern Texas fall more frequently and in greater abundance than in the counties west of the Trinity. It is probably owing to this cause, that the forests east of this river, cover nearly the whole face of the country, and the forest trees attain a larger size than in other parts of Texas. The climate of western Texas, being more arid than that of the eastern counties, is consequently more healthy. The climate of Bexar is delightful; and probably not surpassed by that of any portion of the globe. The summers are never oppressively warm, but are admirably tempered by refreshing sea breezes that prevail during the warm season. Snow scarcely ever falls even to the depth of an inch; and, although most of the rainy weather occurs in winter, there are but few cloudy days. Indeed such is the salubrity of the climate in this section, that previous to the revolution, there were many Mexicans residing in the vicinity of Bexar, who had attained the age of a hundred years, and still enjoyed excellent health.

*Diseases.*—The diseases incident to the climate of Texas are few, and generally yield easily

to a judicious remedial course. Intermittent and remittent fevers are the most common disorders, and generally prevail during the months of August, September and October; the remaining portion of the year is quite healthy. These fevers are chiefly induced by long continued exposure to the sun, great bodily fatigue, occasioned by severe labour, or by the use of unwholesome food. When the remittent fever assumes a congestive type, it is quite dangerous, and is commonly denominated congestive fever.

Females are but little subject to these disorders, as their avocations enable them to be almost constantly sheltered from the sun, and they are seldom required to endure fatigue. Travellers who rashly venture to cross the prairies of the country under the scorching noonday sun, are very liable to contract them. Those however who travel only during the early part of the morning and towards the close of evening, are seldom subjected to their attacks, but almost invariably enjoy excellent health. Male emigrants during the first year after their arrival in the country, are liable to these attacks, owing generally to carelessness and inexperience. The emigrant too often immediately after his arrival, engages in labours and subjects himself to privations tenfold more severe than he had been accustomed to "at home." He is in a new country and every thing around him is exciting and stimulates exertion; he has a house to build, a field to clear and to fence, and a thousand little

obstacles to remove in order to render himself and family comfortable; consequently he labours almost incessantly from dawn until late at evening, forgetful that he is in "another climate," and that his system should become gradually habituated to its influence. As might have been foreseen, he suddenly finds himself prostrated on a bed of sickness, and attributes to the "unhealthiness of the climate," the disease that has been induced by his own indiscretion; whereas had he been more cautious and patient, had laboured less, and been careful to provide himself with wholesome food, he would have enjoyed uninterrupted good health, and been enabled to make all the necessary arrangements for his comfort and happiness.

Those families that have become permanently settled, and surrounded with the comforts and conveniences of life, generally enjoy excellent health and experience probably less inconvenience and are as little subjected to sickness of any description, as those of the most salubrious sections of the United States.

*Facilities of transportation.*—There are few points in the settled sections of Texas, that do not afford the planter the means of easily transporting the products of the soil to a market. The level and undulating regions are intersected by many navigable streams, which are seldom more than thirty miles apart. The Red River where it forms the eastern boundary of the country, is navigable about four hundred miles; the

Sabine one hundred and fifty; the Neches is navigable about one hundred miles; the Trinity three hundred; the San Jacinto fifty; the Buffalo bayou thirty; the Brazos one hundred and fifty, and with little difficulty may be rendered navigable three hundred miles; the San Bernard is navigable thirty miles; the Caney about the same distance; the Colorado when the raft at its mouth shall have been removed, will be navigable one hundred and fifty miles; the Labaca is navigable thirty-five miles; the Guadalupe and San Antonio will both be navigable about fifty miles when the rafts at their mouths shall have been removed; the Nueces is navigable one hundred miles; and the Rio Grande two hundred, and possibly may be rendered navigable five hundred miles. The planters residing in the sections which these streams traverse, will seldom be under the necessity of transporting their produce more than thirty miles. The roads of this country are generally mere trails, and during the winter months, are often quite wet and muddy; in the summer and autumnal months they are generally dry and firm, and afford the teamster almost as many facilities as a Macadamized road. They will be gradually improved as the population of the country increases; and doubtless, in a few years, the facilities of transportation will be extended even into the sections now unsettled and remote from navigable waters; for wherever the Anglo Americans have found agricultural allurements suffi-

cient to induce them to form settlements, they have never wanted the energy and enterprise requisite to connect those settlements with a market.

*Population.*—The population of Texas is variously estimated at from 80,000 to 300,000. If we include the Mexicans of Santa Fe and its vicinity and the Indians residing within the limits of the republic, the latter estimate is probably not too large. Immediately previous to the revolution, the Anglo-American population was only about twenty thousand; that of Austin's Colony, which comprised more than half the population of the country, did not exceed thirteen thousand. Since the invasion, the Anglo-American population has more than quadrupled. The Mexicans over whom the Texian government now exercises jurisdiction, amounts to only two or three thousand; most of whom reside in Bexar and its vicinity. The citizens of Texas differ but little from those of the western states of the "Union." They are chiefly emigrants from the United States. Almost every city, village and hamlet from Maine to Florida, and from the Atlantic to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, has furnished its quota to the population of this republic: and the emigration has been so equal from each section of the Union, that it would be difficult to prove that the emigrants of any one state predominate. It has been gravely asserted in several of the northern states of the Union, that the majority of the people of Texas

are renegades from the United States. This is rather a slander upon the citizens of the United States than upon those of Texas, for if it were true, what a commentary would it afford upon the moral character of the citizens still remaining in those states? If the laws have been so illy administered and the people so immoral in those states, that more than forty thousand rascals have escaped from justice, it may very naturally be inferred that the citizens of the United States are the most depraved and vicious people upon the globe. This idle slander scarcely merits a refutation. The fact is, the citizens of this republic being chiefly emigrants from the United States, are so similar in morals, habits, customs, language and manners, that if a citizen of any one of those states were suddenly transported to any one of the villages of Texas, he would discover no difference between the citizens he would meet and those he had left at home; with, however, this exception; if he were from "the non-slave-holding states," he would discover a few slaves, and if he were from a slave-holding state he would be surprised to find the proportion of slaves so small. There is one peculiarity in the character of the citizens of Texas, that has originated from the political condition of the country. It is manifested in the chivalry and enterprise which every where prevails. During the revolution her hostile attitude with regard to Mexico attracted a large proportion of the most adventurous and daring pioneers of the west;

her lone star became the cynosure of the chivalry of America, and her camps were thronged with young men distinguished for courage and talents of a high order. Many of these were well educated, and allied to the first families of the United States; with a self devotion only equalled by Lafayette, Steuben and other heroes of the American revolution, they cheerfully resigned the luxuries and refinements of their peaceful homes, and braved the dangers and endured the hardships and privations of a Texian camp. Some of them have fallen martyrs to the noble cause they so generously espoused; fallen with a fortitude and high-souled resignation that would have done honour to Rome in the proudest days of republican greatness. Many however still remain, and pride themselves in the name of Texian. Now that the tide of war has been rolled back from the fertile prairies that have been won by their valour, they are turning their "swords into ploughshares and their spears to pruning hooks," and by cultivating the arts of peace and cherishing the social virtues, are building up for their adopted country an imperishable monument of national glory.

It must be admitted that in this republic as every where else, there are many vicious and corrupt men. Around the grog-shops here, as around those in every section of the United States, base and grovelling wretches congregate as reptiles around a putrid lake. These miserable beings who are as corroding cancers to the

community in which they reside, however hasten their own destruction. The "poisoned chalice" they daily and almost hourly elevate to their lips soon hurries them to the grave; and as they silently disappear one by one, society feels relieved from a noxious and loathsome burthen.

The class of emigrants, that is now so rapidly augmenting the population of Texas, is of a most respectable character. Among the emigrants that are daily arriving are many, who have held high and responsible stations, and moved in the first ranks of society in the states they have left. The constant accession of such individuals to the population of the country, will tend to sustain a high tone of morality in society, and perfect the similitude of the institutions of the republic to those of the parent-land.

*Indians.*—An opinion has been for some time prevalent in the United States, that Texas contains many powerful and formidable tribes of Indians, and that the settlements of the country even at a distance from the frontiers, are constantly subjected to their depredations. This is a gross error. The Indian tribes of Texas, with the single exception of the Comanches, are all small, and but the mere remnants of tribes who have been driven from their original hunting grounds. Savage nations are far more jealous than civilized nations, of neighbouring tribes who by their numbers or prowess may become formidable; and it is probably owing to this cause that Texas contains so few savage tribes;

the jealousy of the Comanches on the west and that of the Pawnees on the east, has tended to keep a large portion of Texas even from remote ages almost entirely destitute of inhabitants, like a border territory. The only tribes that have been permitted to remain west of the Red River, are such as were too weak and too imbecile to excite the fear or jealousy of the Comanches. The principal tribes now residing within the limits of Texas are the Comanches, the Lipans, the Tonkewas, the Carancuawas, the Towacanies, the Toweash, the Keachies, the Ienies, the Coshattees, the Alabamas and Bedais, and a few roving Cherokees, Kickapoos, Caddos and Shawnees from the United States.

The Comanches are the most numerous tribe of Texas. They can muster about one thousand warriors, and their whole population amounts to about eleven thousand. They are scattered in small bands over almost the whole unsettled portions of Texas, but their main force is near the western border on the frontiers of Mexico. In consequence of their being so widely scattered, they can with difficulty concentrate even five hundred men on any of the frontier settlements of Texas; beyond the Rio Grande, however, in the almost defenceless provinces of Chihuahua and Coahuila, they have often mustered a thousand warriors. They consider the Mexicans their natural enemies, and have always been averse to hostilities with the whites. They have committed a few depredations near Bexar and

other western towns, but having been almost invariably repulsed with considerable loss, it is probable they will hereafter confine their depredations to the Mexican settlements west of the Rio Grande; where they find an enemy more cowardly than themselves, and who has been long accustomed to permit them to ravage the country with impunity.

The Lipans number about two hundred and fifty warriors; they range the country between the Rio Grande and the Colorado; they are quite friendly to the Texians and have often accompanied the Texian rangers against the hostile Indians.

The Tonkewas number one hundred and fifty warriors; they are also friendly to the whites. They range the same extent of country as the Lipans, and their little encampments are often found adjoining. The Carancuawas number only about forty warriors; they reside near the Aransas Bay, and are generally occupied in hunting or fishing for the citizens near Aransas and Copano. The Coshattees and Alabamas are remnants of small tribes who have emigrated from Georgia and Alabama; they are exceedingly pacific and inoffensive. They number about two hundred warriors, and have two small villages on the Trinity, where they reside, and are often employed by the settlers in that section for the purposes of hunting and fishing. The Bedais number about twenty warriors and resemble the Coshattees. They generally reside

on the waters of the San Jacinto, and are employed as hunters by the citizens.

The Towaccanias and Toweash resemble each other, and are often found associated in the same villages; they number about two hundred and fifty warriors. They live high up on the Colorado above the San Saba. The Keachies number about fifty warriors. They formerly inhabited the forests near the sources of the Trinity, but have been driven into the prairies west of that stream; and are now in an exceedingly destitute condition.

The Ienies number about forty warriors; they reside near the sources of the Trinity, and are often found associated with the Keachies.

The Wacos number only about thirty warriors; they formerly resided on the Brazos, about fifty miles above the falls, but were driven from thence a few years since, and now reside farther up towards the Salt lake.

These Indians are all in a very wretched and destitute condition. They are generally armed only with paltry bows and arrows, and are despised and often insulted with impunity by the few roving Shawanees, Caddos, Cherokees and other Indians from the United States, who often frequent the prairies of Texas for game. Since the expulsion of the hostile Cherokees the Indian power has been completely broken; and fifty well armed rangers could easily traverse the whole Indian country from one extremity to the other without encountering any force capable of

obstructing their progress. Even if the Comanches and all the tribes of Texas were united in hostilities against the citizens of the country, they could retard the extension of the frontier settlements only for a brief period; for the citizens have become so fully convinced of the weakness and cowardice of these Indians, that they now rather despise than fear them. The fact that they are chiefly armed with bows and arrows, indicates their weakness and imbecility, and proves that they cannot become formidable to well armed rangers.

*Animals.*—The animals of Texas differ but little from those of the United States. A species of tiger is found in the western part, different from the cougar or catamount. It is spotted, and resembles the Bengal tiger in almost every respect, but is smaller. It is about the size of the catamount, and is probably allied to the Jaguar of South America. A species of leopard is also found in the western forests. The skin of this animal is most beautifully spotted, and is highly prized by the Indians, as an article of ornament. This leopard is about as large as a wild-cat, and is commonly styled the *leopard-cat*. The peccary, or Mexican hog, frequents the forests of all the western streams. A species of wild goat frequents the mountain regions at the sources of the Rio Puerco. Immense droves of mustangs or wild horses are found in the western prairies. These animals are often seen near the Nueces moving in dense columns four or five miles

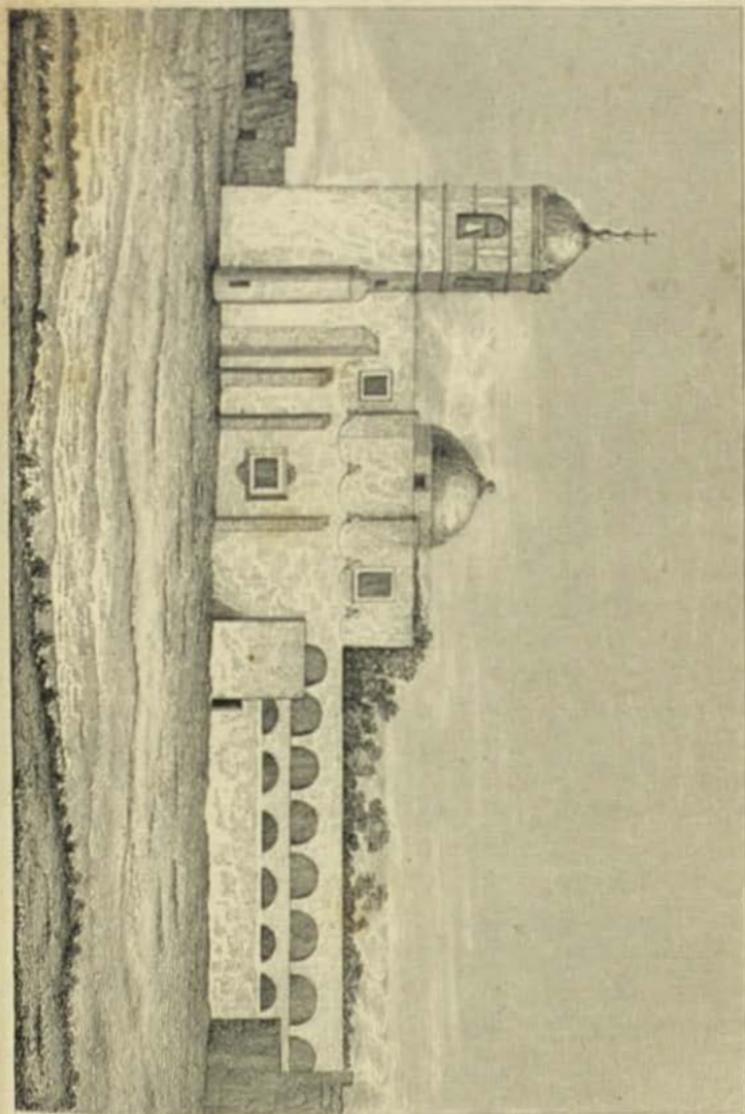
long, and the horses eight or ten abreast. They are invariably guided by a leader, distinguished by his size and strength. This leader is generally white, and at night whenever an enemy approaches, darts off and is followed by the nearest of his companions, who readily distinguish him by his colour. The stampade, or tremendous tramping sound made by these large herds of mustangs, is often heard several miles, and resembles the sound of distant thunder. These wild horses are generally smaller than the domestic horses, but are quite fleet and easily tamed. The Mexicans often catch them with the lasso, and completely subdue them in a few days so as to render them serviceable as saddle horses. They, however, are much inferior in value to the domestic horses, as they are unable to endure much fatigue, and are always treacherous and skittish. Vast droves of buffalo frequent the whole unsettled portion of Texas, and a few months since were found in great numbers in the immediate vicinity of the capitol. The droves of these animals, often cover the whole face of the country for miles in extent near the sources of the Colorado and Brazos. They annually migrate from the northern to the southern sections of the country, and are pursued in these migrations by the Camanches and other Indians, who chiefly depend upon these herds for their food. The deer are so numerous, that they are often found in herds of several thousands, and in many of the settlements, venison can be procured almost as

readily as mutton in the older states of the Union. Bears, wolves, foxes, opossums, hares, and other similar animals, are found in all the forests. Countless numbers of wild geese, brant, ducks, and other wild fowl, frequent the prairies during the winter months. The wild geese are often found in the prairies in vast flocks, feeding like sheep, upon the succulent grass. Wild turkeys, grouse or prairie hens, and quails are numerous. Immense flocks of wild pigeons often frequent the forests near the sources of the Trinity and Neches during the winter months. Bees are very numerous in many sections, and vast quantities of wild honey are procured from the forests. There are few venomous reptiles or insects in this country. Rattlesnakes and moccassin snakes are occasionally found, but are not numerous. Scorpions are found in the western counties, but they are harmless. The wounds inflicted by these animals are seldom more severe than the wounds inflicted by the bumble-bee. There is a singular little animal found in the prairies of this country, that is considered a great curiosity by the emigrants from the northern states. It is styled the horned frog, and is about the size of an ordinary frog. It is a species of lizard, but its tail is so small, that the animal appears more like a frog than a lizard. It has four little protuberances like horns on the top of its head, and its back is serrated with protuberances similar to those on the back of the alligator. It is of a dark, greyish brown colour, runs with great ra-

pidity, and is often, when seen running in the grass, mistaken for the ground sparrow.

Great numbers of excellent fish frequent the bays and rivers of this country. Among these are red fish, grundiquoit, mullet, sea perch, sea trout, &c. The red fish are often caught in great quantities. They are about the size of cod fish, and are highly esteemed by the inhabitants. Buffalo and cat-fish are found in all the rivers. Turtle of a very large size are found on the coast. Immense beds of excellent oysters are found in Galveston bay, and in most of the inlets of the coast. The great quantities of game that have always been found in this country, induced the Indians to style it "the happy hunting ground."

*Missions.*—Among the numerous objects of curiosity in Texas, there are none that strike the traveller more forcibly than the "old missions" which are found in various sections, but chiefly on the western streams. These ancient edifices are of massive stone, and resemble the feudal castles of Europe. They were erected by the Spaniards shortly after the conquest of Mexico by Cortez; and several of them are coeval with the oldest cities of the United States. They are nearly all built upon the same plan, consisting generally of a church in a fort. Among them the Alamo in Bexar, San Jose and Conception, situated a few miles below that city on the San Antonio, Espirito Santo near Goliad, and Refugio, are the most noted. There is also an old

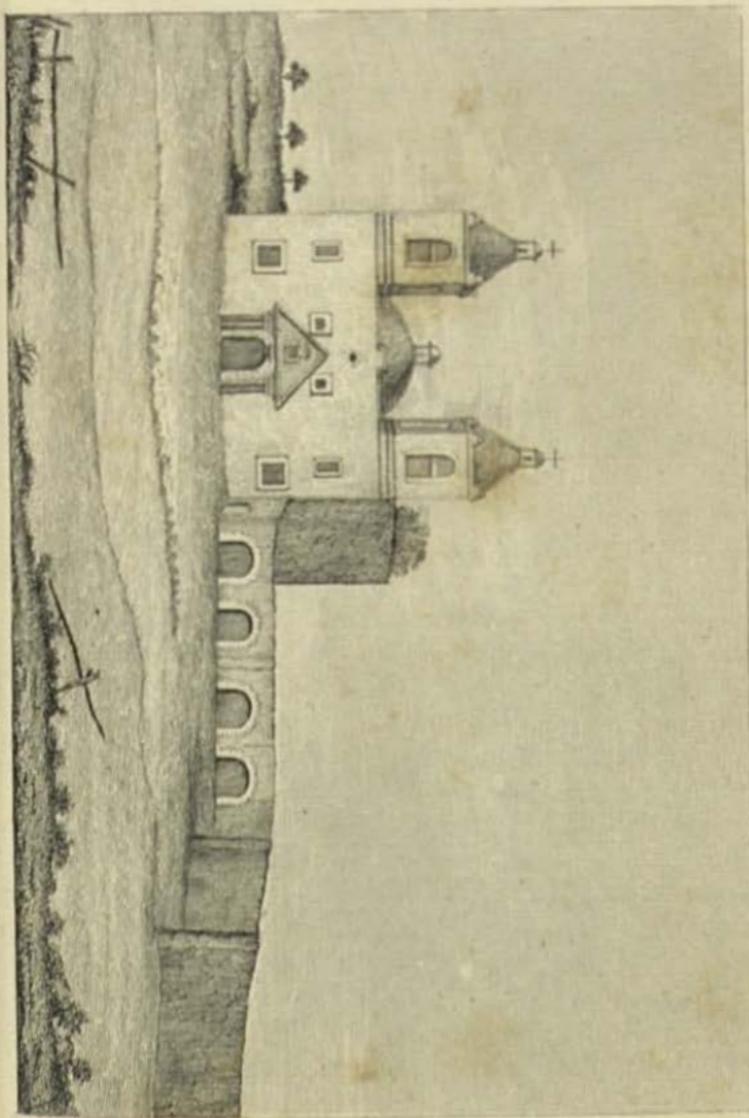


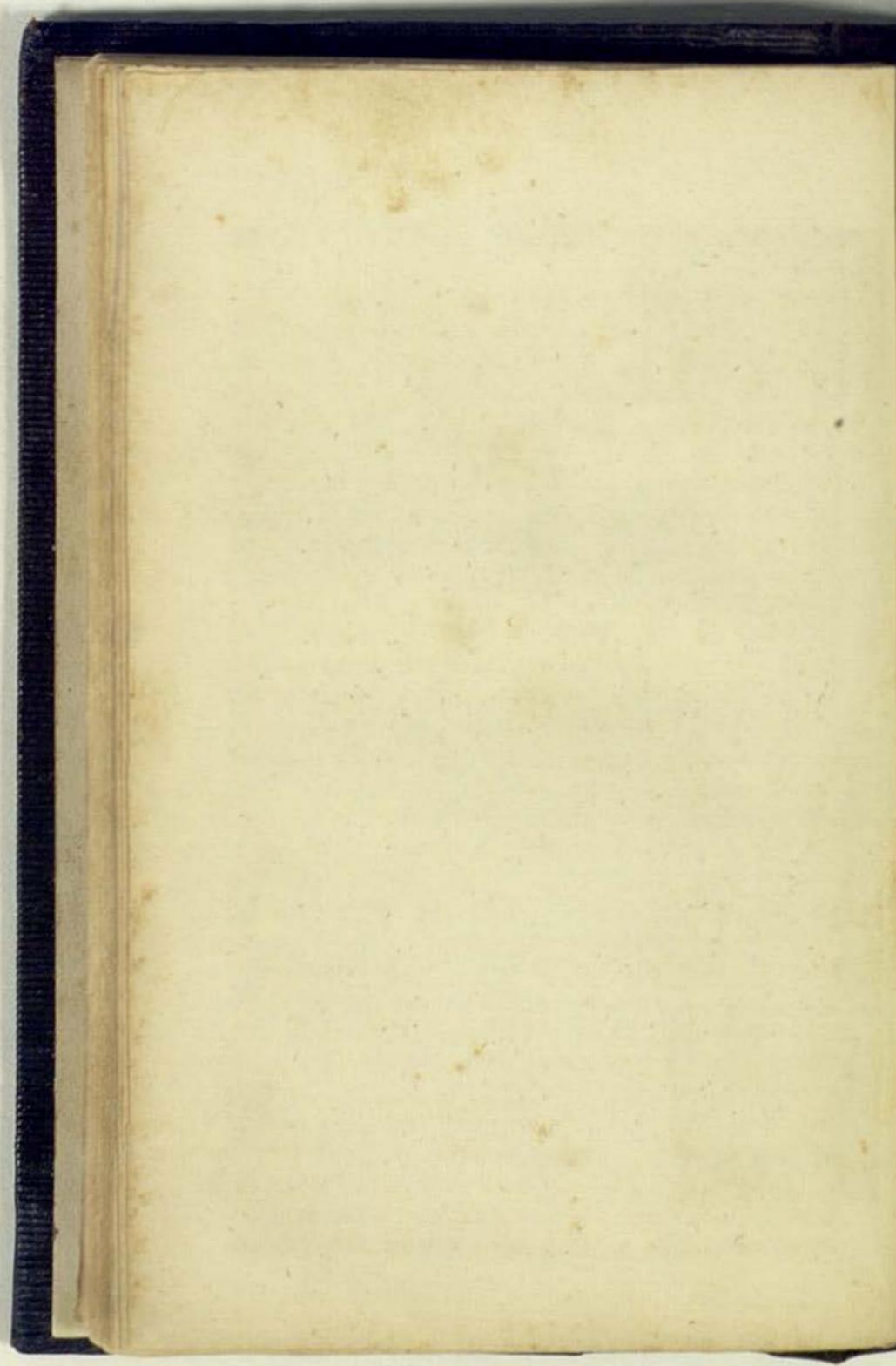


mission near San Augustine, and one on the San Saba. It is singular that wherever these dilapidated edifices are found at a distance from the settlements, tradition has almost invariably associated them with valuable mines of gold or silver. It is said there is an exceedingly valuable silver mine near the mission on the San Saba. The geological features of the country do not authorise this conclusion however, as the rocks here belong to the secondary formation; chiefly to the most recent secondary groups, agreeably to the best information at present obtained. The only specimens of ore which we have seen from the San Saba are iron pyrites and sulphuret of lead; we doubt therefore whether any large quantities of silver have ever been procured from that section. We have been informed by intelligent and respectable gentlemen of San Augustine, that there is a valuable gold mine at the old mission on Ayish bayou, a few miles below that town, and it is generally believed by the citizens of that section that vast quantities of gold were formerly procured by the Spaniards at that place. The geologist however would as readily look for gold in the chalk cliffs of England as in any section of that county. It appears the Spaniards erected these buildings, as much for the purpose of protecting mining companies, as for that of extending the true faith; and the numerous excavations found near them, prove that while the *pious* fathers with the sword in one hand and the Bible in the other, were gathering the wild bands

of the prairie to bow at the shrine of the holy virgin, the laymen were as diligently working their way towards the regions of Pluto. These excavations have evidently been made at random, and were undoubtedly directed by ignorance and caprice. Probably the "divining rod" was the principal instrument employed by the avaricious miner, in his idle attempts to find valuable beds of ore; doubtless therefore he in almost every instance found his cupidity rewarded by the discovery of beds of marine shells, instead of glittering veins of gold. The large number of excavations of this kind, that are found near these edifices, has probably given rise to the traditions of silver and gold mines near Bexar and other places. Some of these edifices exhibit much architectural taste and beauty. Their massive towers rising in solitary grandeur amid the deep forests of the west, form a singularly interesting feature in the scenery of that section. Many of these towers are crowned with wild shrubbery. Some are found in lonely wastes now traversed only by the Indian and wild herds of the prairie. Others rise amid cultivated fields, and are surrounded by cheerful villages, and give to the landscapes an European character. An Italian, gazing at the setting sun over the dilapidated walls of Conception or San Jose, might well imagine that he was in his own bright clime, where similar structures designate the sway of superstition and folly.

*Political condition.*—The present political condition of Texas evinces the most general pros-





perity, and indicates the brightest prospects for the future. Although she is still nominally at war, her citizens are enjoying all the blessings of peace, and are quietly pursuing their respective avocations, with as much security and confidence as the citizens of any of the States of the Union. Neither the Indians on the one hand, nor the Mexicans on the other, any longer excite apprehension or alarm. Since the expulsion of the hostile Cherokees, the former have been completely humbled. The few who remain hostile are now in the most destitute condition, and driven like timid deer from place to place by the advancing bands of pioneers, whose log cabins form a line of fortifications along the whole frontier. Mexico indeed continues her periodical threats, as she has done during the last four years; but with no intention of carrying them into effect. They serve as excellent pretexts for raising the taxes requisite to sustain the officers of government at home, and they are probably intended rather for this purpose, than to do injury abroad. She is too well aware of her own weakness, and of the immense accessions that have been made to the forces of Texas, since the battle of San Jacinto, to hazard another invasion, that must necessarily result not only in the defeat and ruin of the forces engaged, but also jeopardize her own safety. When she attempted the conquest of Texas in 1836, all her provinces were united and her whole power concentrated more effectually than it has been at any period

since: now that several of her provinces at opposite extremities of the republic, are in a state of open revolt, and her forces broken and scattered in different sections, it is idle to suppose that she will again venture to invade Texas, whose military strength and resources are tenfold greater than they were during the previous invasion, which was so easily repelled. Were she even to hazard an attempt of this kind, it would indicate in her rulers a degree of rashness bordering on insanity. Texas has now a navy that commands the whole Gulf, and Mexico dares not set a single armed vessel afloat beyond the limits of her own harbours. If requisite, Texas could easily muster an army of twenty thousand men; a force that with the co-operation of her navy could roll the car of conquest far beyond the Rio Grande, and possibly overturn the present dynasty of that unhappy country. She prefers however the quiet enjoyment of the advantages she has already secured, to the uncertain allurements of conquest. In the meantime her government in the pursuit of a wise and liberal policy is endeavoring to diffuse the blessings of peace at home, and to extend her commercial relations abroad. The laws are administered with a promptness and efficiency, that afford the most perfect security of person and property. Her public men by stimulating enterprise and encouraging public and private virtue, indicate that they are duly impressed with the conviction, that political integrity and well directed human industry are the

essential elements of national prosperity. Those who doubt the stability of the government of Texas, have been ignorant of the true character of her citizens. It is sufficient to know, that the great mass of the citizens of this republic are Anglo-Americans, to know that her civil and political institutions are permanent and stable. A celebrated Grecian philosopher, when asked what was gained by the study of philosophy, replied, "If the laws were all abolished, the truth it inculcates, would induce men to act as if the laws were still in force." It is thus with the Anglo-Americans; education has so habituated them to the restraints of civil discipline, that wherever communities of them are formed a "system of common law" springs up spontaneously; and they act even from habit as if they were controlled by legal enactments. It was thus with the people of Texas, during the revolution; although a state of complete anarchy prevailed throughout the republic, for no laws were promulgated or in force, the citizens acted as if they were controlled by the laws of the parent-land. These facts should be sufficient to convince the most sceptical with regard to the permanency of the government of Texas. Stability is everywhere traced in her political system in characters of adamant.

## AUSTIN COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded north by Washington county, east by Harris and Montgomery counties, south by Fort Bend county, and west by Colorado and Fayette counties. The Little Caney forms part of its northern boundary, and the main fork of the San Bernard part of its western boundary.

Austin is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with the counties of Colorado and Fort Bend. It forms a part of the second judicial district.

*Streams.*—The Brazos flows through the eastern part of this county. Its principal western branches are the Little Caney, Mill Creek, and Williams's Creek; a few small eastern branches of the San Bernard flow through the western part. The water of all these creeks, especially that of Mill Creek, is sweet and wholesome.

*Surface.*—This county is uniformly level at the south, but gently undulating at the north. All the streams, even those quite small, are lined with forests from a few rods to three or four miles wide. The remainder of the county is an open prairie.

*Forest Trees.*—These are principally live oak, white, red and post oak, peccan, cottonwood, ash, elm and holly.

*Soil and Productions.*—The soil of the northern and eastern portion is of an excellent quality, yielding in ordinary seasons, of corn 60 bushels to the acre; of cotton from 500 to 800 lbs. of ginned cotton; of sweet potatoes 300 bushels; Irish 200 bushels; two crops of these last are frequently raised in one season. The soil of the western and southern part is somewhat sandy and much less productive than the eastern portion. Between the San Bernard and the Brazos is an immense open prairie, the soil of which is better adapted to pasturage than tillage. Rye, oats and millet thrive well; and peaches, figs and melons are produced in abundance.

*Towns.*—The principal settlements are along the Mill and Caney Creeks, and the Brazos. There are no large towns. San Felipe de Austin, the county seat and formerly the capitol of the Brazos jurisdiction, is situated on the west bank of the Brazos at the north-east corner of an extensive prairie about 70 miles above Columbia. It contained 600 inhabitants at the commencement of the war: on the approach of the Mexican army it was fired by one of its own citizens, who Parthian like, preferred to behold his home a desert rather than the shelter of a tyrant. It is now slowly rising from its ruins, and promises to attain its former size in the course of a few years.

The inhabitants of this county are mostly settlers from the southern and western states of the Union; many, however, are from New England.

They generally enjoy excellent health, especially those residing on the San Bernard, the Caney, Mill and Williams's creeks. The whole population of the county is about 5000.



#### BASTROP, FORMERLY MINA COUNTY.

*Boundaries.*—This county is bounded as follows.—Beginning at the La Bahia crossing of the Colorado river, and running west with the La Bahia road to the Labacca river; thence up said river to its source; thence along the ridge that divides the waters of the Colorado and San Marks to the foot of the mountains; thence with said mountains in a south-eastern direction across the Colorado to a ridge dividing the Colorado and Brazos rivers; thence with said ridge in a south-eastern direction to the La Bahia road; thence with said road to the beginning. These boundaries have recently been modified by the act creating Travis county.

This county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Gonzales, Fayette and Travis. It forms a part of the third judicial district.

*Surface.*—Nearly the whole surface of this county is generally undulating; there are a few ranges of low hills in the northern part.—The

streams are generally skirted with broad ranges of forests, between which are scattered innumerable small and beautiful prairies.

*Soil and Productions.*—The soil is generally very rich and productive, consisting in part of a very deep black mould, intermixed with black sand, producing large crops of corn, cotton, wheat, rye, oats and sugar cane. Indigo grows in abundance spontaneously. Several varieties of excellent grapes abound in the forests skirting the streams.—The Irish and sweet potatoe yield astonishing crops, and attain an excellence equalled by those of but few counties in Texas. There is also a species of bulbous rooted grass abounding in the prairies, which furnishes an inexhaustible source of food to innumerable herds of swine.

*Streams.*—The Colorado flows through this county near the middle. Its course is generally from north-east to south-west. It is a deep, rapid stream of clear, pure, wholesome water, about one hundred yards broad, navigable through the whole extent of the county, for small steamboats. The banks are high and seldom overflowed.

Bastrop, the county seat, is pleasantly situated in an elevated and remarkably healthy prairie on the left bank of the Colorado, about thirty-five miles below the mountains, and the same distance above La Bahia crossing. Its remarkably healthy and central position will necessarily secure for it in a few years a rank and importance equalled by but two or three cities in the repub-

lic. The extensive and rich vallies of the San Saba and Colorado above, offer so many enticing allurements to emigrants, that Bastrop must within a very short period, become the centre of one of the most populous and productive sections of Texas.

*Minerals.*—Large quantities of iron ore, and many quarries of excellent "building stones," are found in this county, also beds of lignite. Great numbers of siliceous pebbles are found scattered over the surface of the county in many places. The rocks are of the secondary formation, and are chiefly limestone and sandstone. Beds of excellent marl are found in many parts of the county.



## BEXAR COUNTY.

THIS county is entitled to two representatives and one senator. It forms a part of the fourth judicial district.

This county is a portion of the former jurisdiction of Bexar; its boundaries have not yet been defined. This description will be confined to the section of country comprised between the valley of the Rio Frio and the eastern border of the valley of Cibolo, embracing the valleys of the Medina, the San Antonio and the Cibolo, which

for fertility of soil, salubrity of climate and beautiful scenery, may be considered the garden of Texas.

*Surface.*—The whole section is a continuous series of undulations forming what is termed the rolling prairie, except a small portion at the north a few miles above Bexar where a range of hills extends from north-east to south-west, across the country, forming a dividing ridge between the Guadalupe and Medina. The streams are generally lined with narrow borders of forests. The remainder of the county is open, and decorated with numerous scattered musquit trees and post oak groves which generally crown the summits of the rolling swells.

*Streams.*—The San Antonio, Medina, Cibolo and Salado are the principal streams. The San Antonio is formed from four springs which issue from the foot of a small eminence four or five miles above Bexar and uniting their waters about a mile above the city, form a river fifty yards wide and four or five feet deep; this stream is very rapid, it flows over a pebbly bed and its waters are remarkably pure and wholesome; such is their transparency that small fish may be seen distinctly at the depth of ten feet. The Medina is a hundred miles longer than the San Antonio; above its junction with this stream, it is however quite narrow, being generally for a hundred miles above its mouth only a few yards wide; it is a sluggish stream flowing over a marly bed. The Sibolo resembles the Medina,

but is considerably smaller ; it flows over a rocky bed, and its waters are remarkably clear and wholesome. The Salado is a short rapid stream, flowing over a marly bed ; its waters, like all the streams of this section, are sweet, clear and wholesome.

*Towns.*—Bexar,\* the county seat, is the only town. It is situated on both sides of the San Antonio, about twenty miles above its junction with the Medina, and is one of the oldest towns in North America, containing many ancient structures which recall to mind its former greatness, and the many vicissitudes of fortune which have characterized its singular and interesting history. It contained a few years since eight or ten thousand inhabitants, its present population is only about one thousand. Nature seems to have destined it to become one of the first cities of America.

The Alamo is situated at the north-east part of the town on the left bank of the river. It is a large oblong walled enclosure containing about an acre of ground ; the wall is about eight or

\* There is a tradition prevalent in Texas, that Bexar derives its name from the Spanish word *Abeja*, and that it was applied to this town in consequence of a swarm of bees having formed their hive in the steeple of the great church at the precise period that the first Anglo-Americans settled in Texas ; the tradition also states that the bees had never been seen in the country previous to this identical period. There is probably more of romance than truth in this tradition, as the transatlantic archetype of Bexar has existed in old Spain for centuries.

Sketched by H. Bissont



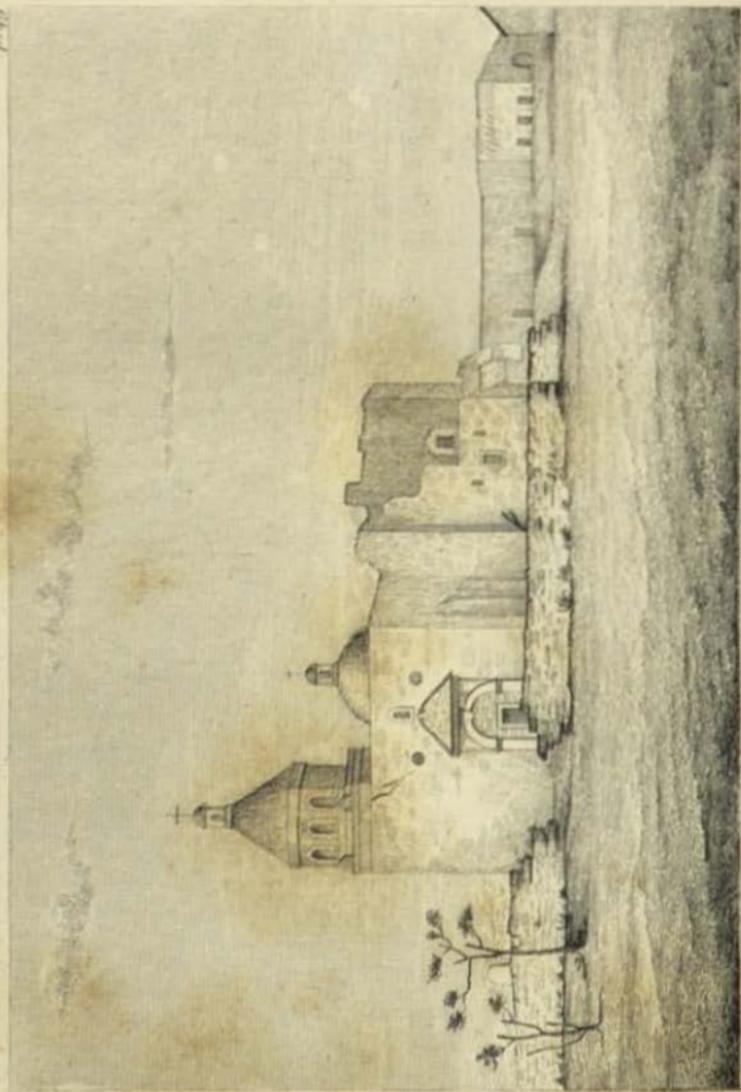


Fig. for Francis P. Moore's  
CHURCH IN THE SQUARE OF SAN ANTONIO

ten feet high and three feet thick. Since the fall of Travis and his heroic band, it has been dismantled; and no longer a fortress, it remains to designate the Thermopylæ of Texas.

Below Bexar scattered along the banks of the river are many large and beautiful edifices, built of massive stone. They are styled Missions, and generally consist of a fortress and a church.

The Missions of CONCEPTION, SAN JOSE and SAN JUAN are the most noted. The former has given its name to the battle fought near it on the 27th of October, 1835; in which a force of ninety-two Texians under the command of Fannin and Bowie, defeated a detachment of the Mexican army, amounting to more than three hundred cavalry and infantry. The loss of the Texians in this engagement, was only one man killed. That of the enemy, nearly one hundred killed and wounded.

Most of the inhabitants of this county are of Mexican descent. Emigrants from the eastern part of Texas and the United States are now continually arriving with their families, and there is every reason to believe that in a few years this county will contain a more dense population than any other portion of Texas.

*Mineral Waters.*—Near the Cibolo about thirty-three miles from Bexar, is a mineral spring, its waters have for ages been held in high estimation by the aborigines for their medicinal qualities.

*Minerals.*—Great quantities of limestone are

found in all parts of this section ; flint and several varieties of sandstone abound on the San Antonio and Cibolo. Here are also numerous beds of a natural cement, resembling slacked lime : which when formed into mortar, becomes hard as stone, and is much used as a building material.

*Soil and Productions.*—The soil consists generally of a dark, sandy, calcareous loam, exceedingly rich and productive. Some of this has been cultivated more than fifty successive years, and yet seems to have lost none of its original fertility. The facilities of irrigation are such in the valleys of these streams that their waters may easily be directed over a surface of one million of square acres, capable of producing the most abundant crops of corn, wheat, cotton, tobacco, indigo, sugar, rye, oats, millet, and various culinary vegetables ; wheat was formerly raised in considerable quantities. The mesquit grass, carpets the whole section and continues green throughout the whole year, furnishing a never-failing pasturage.

The nopal or prickly pear abounds in this section, and often forms dense impenetrable hedges, eight or ten feet high, and covering whole acres of ground. Its fruit attains an extraordinary size and possesses an excellent flavour.

*Forest trees.*—There are few varieties of forest trees ; the live oak predominates ; the peccan also is abundant and its fruit is exceedingly large ; cypress is found on the Medina, the mesquit tree

is thinly scattered over the whole county; this is "a species of the locust," generally about the size of a peach tree and bearing a long slender pod sweet to the taste and often used by the Indians for food; this tree also yields excellent gum, like gum arabic. Besides these, there are the red oak and post oak.



## BRAZORIA COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded north by Fort-bend and Harris counties, east by Galveston county, south by the Gulf, and west by the county of Matagorda. It is entitled to two representatives and one senator. It forms a part of the second judicial district.

*Surface.*—The surface of this county is a uniformly level plain of an irregularly oblong form, eighty miles long and fifty or sixty broad, containing about four hundred square leagues. Within ten miles of the coast, the county is an open prairie, destitute of trees, the remainder of the county is beautifully variegated by forests of live oak lining the streams which intersect the prairies in every direction.

*Soil, Productions, &c.*—The soil of nearly the whole county, except a small tract bordering the coast, is very rich and productive, consisting

of a deep black mould resting upon a substratum of red loam; this substratum is in many places thirty or forty feet deep and entirely free from stones; indeed there is not probably a stone of the size of a pea to be found throughout the whole extent of the county except those which have been introduced by art. Near the coast, the soil is quite thin, resting upon a bed of sand and shells, it however produces here an abundant crop of grass affording excellent pasturage. Cotton and Indian corn are extensively cultivated and yield abundant crops with little labour. Almost all kinds of culinary vegetables thrive well. Horned cattle increase in a wonderful manner and are an immense source of wealth, as they require hardly any attention, and continue pasturing in the extensive and fertile prairies and woodlands during the whole year. In this county are many of the wealthiest farmers of Texas; several of these are from the most northern states of the Union, and have resided here several years enjoying excellent health, this proving that the climate is healthy. The water of many parts of the county is not wholesome unless boiled or filtered. This circumstance has induced many planters to collect the rain water for family use; such families are almost invariably healthy.

The principal streams of this county are Clear creek, Chocolate bayou, Austin's bayou, Oyster creek, the Brazos, the San Bernard and Caney creek. The Brazos is navigable throughout the

whole county for steamboats of the largest class; the San Bernard and Caney are navigable for the smaller class of steamboats, the former forty and the latter thirty miles.

*Roads, &c.*—The principal roads of this county, are the roads leading from Velasco and Quintana to Robertson's colony through Brazoria and Columbia; and the roads leading from the east across the county, one through Brazoria, another through Marion and Columbia to the west. There are ferries on the Brazos at Marion, Brazoria and Velasco, one or two on the San Bernard, one at the mouth of Caney and two or three above.

*Towns.*—The chief towns of this county, are Brazoria, Velasco, Quintana, Columbia and Marion.

Brazoria the county seat, is the largest town; it is situated on the west bank of the Brazos, about twenty-five miles above its mouth, contains a handsome court-house, several large stores and many neat private dwellings. This is in a flourishing condition, and will undoubtedly become a place of great importance, as it is situated in a remarkably fertile section of country, the resources of which only require to be developed in order to concentrate at this point an extensive carrying trade. Population about 800.

Velasco, situated on the east bank of the Brazos at its mouth, is next to Brazoria in size. Several capitalists have located here, and have given a new impulse to business. A steam-boat

occasionally plies between this place and Marion. Quintana on the opposite bank may be considered a part of Velasco as the harbour is common to both, and the river only about three hundred yards broad. If steamboat navigation gains the ascendancy on the Gulf, this harbour will require but little improvement to render Velasco one of the most important places on the coast of Texas. Population 400.

Marion, situated on the west bank of the Brazos, twelve miles above Brazoria, already gives evidence of becoming its successful rival. Population 300.

Columbia is beautifully situated on the eastern border of an extensive and romantic prairie, only a mile and a half distant from Marion. Population 300.

In addition to the above mentioned towns, there are many beautiful and flourishing settlements on Caney, San Bernard, Oyster creek and Chocolate bayou; the population of the county however is thinly scattered over its surface, and most of the prairies are entirely vacant. Population about 7000.

*Natural Curiosities.*—Near the northern boundary of this county twelve miles above Columbia is a singular swelling of land about one hundred feet high, and a mile or a mile and a half in circumference, forming a long regularly oval knoll, which attracts the notice of every traveller, as it is the only eminence which breaks the uniform level of the surrounding country to

the extent of forty or fifty miles on either side. Its singular form and situation have obtained for it the distinctive title of "THE MOUND." There are two similar but smaller hillocks in the county, one about midway between Austin's and Chocolate bayous, near the bay; the other nearly midway between the Brazos and Bernard, near the coast; the summit of the latter is decorated with several muskit trees, which are probably the only trees of this kind in the whole county.

Seven miles below Brazoria, and east of the Brazos, is a lake, four or five miles long, and only two or three hundred yards wide, so closely resembling a portion of the Brazos in appearance, that there can hardly exist a doubt that it once formed the bed of this stream, which possibly at some former day poured its waters into the west bay of Galveston.

NOTE.—The Irish potatoe does not change its nature by successive plantings, and become the sweet potatoe, as stated by several authors. Nor does "the Brazos overflow its banks in all ordinary seasons, for two-thirds of the year," on the contrary, in ordinary seasons this river *never* rises to the top of its banks by several feet.

## COLORADO COUNTY.

· THIS county is bounded north by Fayette county, east by Austin and Matagorda counties, south by Matagorda and Jackson counties, and west by the county of Gonzales.

Colorado is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with the counties of Austin and Fort Bend. It forms a part of the second judicial district.

*Surface.*—This county is level at the south and gently undulating at the north; a broad open prairie extends from the fringing woods of the Colorado to the bottoms of the San Bernard, and a similar prairie extends from the Colorado westerly to the woody fringe of the Navidad. These prairies like most of the low country of Texas, are intersected by deep ravines worn by small streams through the deep bed of reddish loam which extends many miles on each side of the Colorado. Towards the San Bernard these ravines are rather shallow, owing to the quantity of sand intermixed with the loam.

*Soil and Productions.*—The soil is generally fertile; near the Colorado and Navidad it is excellent; consisting of a rich, black mould resting upon a reddish loam. These are frequently intermixed in ploughing, giving to the newly ploughed fields a chocolate colour. The soil on the Bernard being sandy, is not so productive as

that near the Colorado; it however yields good crops of corn, potatoes and cotton.

*Streams.*—The Colorado is the only large river; it is a rapid stream of clear, wholesome water, about two hundred and fifty yards wide and ten or fifteen feet deep, flowing over a pebbly bed. Its banks are seldom overflowed; they rise generally fifteen or twenty feet above its surface, are quite steep, and appear to have been formed like the banks of the Nile, from the sediment deposited by the waters of numerous inundations. The San Bernard, Cummin's creek, Navidad, Buckner's creek and Caney are small streams of pure wholesome water.

*Population.*—Along the Colorado, Cummin's creek, Navidad and Caney are some fine settlements, the remainder of the county is nearly vacant.

Columbus, the county seat is pleasantly situated on the west bank of the Colorado, upon a high bluff, forming part of a beautiful prairie surrounded by dense forests of live oak, cottonwood, &c. It is yet quite a small village containing only about fifty houses.

*Minerals.*—The bed of the Colorado is paved with a large variety of siliceous minerals, among which are found, agate, chalcedony and a few singular petrifications.

*Curiosities.*—Numerous imperfect skeletons of an enormous size have been found imbedded in the banks of the Colorado. They are the remains of the mastodon and mammoth or fossil elephant.

## FANNIN COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Red River, on the east by the county of Red River, on the south by the county of Nacogdoches, and on the west by unexplored territory. Its boundaries as defined by an act of congress passed in November, 1837, are as follows, viz :—" Beginning at the north of Bois d' Arc creek on Red river ; thence up said creek with the meanders thereof to the crossing at the late residence of Carter T. Cliff ; thence south so far as to make sixty miles from the place of beginning on a straight line ; thence west to a point south of the head of the upper Washita ; thence north to Red River, and down the same with the meanders thereof to the place of beginning."

Fannin county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with the county of Red River. It forms a part of the seventh judicial district.

*Surface.*—This county presents but little variety of surface. At the north a few low ranges of hills extend along the course of the Red River : the remainder of the county, with the exception of an extensive level tract, nearly midway between the Trinity and Red rivers, is undulating, or diversified by hills of a very moderate elevation. A dense forest overshadows the southern portion of the county, and a broad belt

of woods, varying from twelve to fifty miles in breadth, extends northwards from this forest, on the west to the bank of Red River, terminating opposite the mouth of the Washita. The remainder of the county, with the exception of the woody fringes of the streams, is open prairie.

*Streams.*—The Bois d' Arc, Caney, Choctaw bayou, Papaw, the little and big Mineral Creeks, are the principal streams flowing into Red River; none of them are navigable more than six or eight miles. Small tributary streams of the Sulphur Fork, the Trinity, Sabine and Brazos rivers, rise in the southern and western sections of the county. These streams are fed by numerous springs of wholesome water, have rapid currents and afford many excellent mill sites.

*Forest trees.*—The forest trees of this county consists of many varieties of the oak, hickory, ash, walnut, pecan, cottonwood, elm, cedar and Bois d' Arc. The undergrowth consists chiefly of red-bud, spice-wood, dog-wood, papaw, and dwarf buckeye. The Bois d' Arc trees attain a remarkable size, and are often found four feet in diameter and eighty feet in height. The timber of this tree is considered very valuable on account of its durability and great solidity. The fruit of this tree resembles the orange, but is much larger, being often four or five inches in diameter; horses, hogs and horned cattle are exceedingly fond of it, and find in the forests of Bois d' Arc, an inexhaustible supply of substantial food during the autumnal months.

*Soil.*—The soil in the western portion of this county is generally quite thin and sandy. Along Red River and its tributaries it is remarkably fertile, consisting of a rich, black, friable mould, often many feet deep. The soil of the prairies and uplands resembles that of the prairies of the southern counties, being generally a black, adhesive mould. The western and middle portions of the county are better adapted to grazing than tillage; the soil of the northern and eastern sections produces excellent crops of corn, cotton, wheat, potatoes and other productions of the middle states of the "Union." The peach, cherry, also the pear and apple flourish in this county.

*Minerals.*—Iron ore is found in great quantities in different parts of the county, particularly on Choctaw bayou. The rocks belong to the secondary formation and consist chiefly of limestone and sandstone arranged in horizontal strata.

*Curiosities.*—In the alluvial tracts bordering Red River, many bones of immense reptiles have been found belonging probably to the species of fossil *Saurians*.

*Population.*—This section has been recently wrested from the domination of the savage; and although few counties of the republic contain a larger proportion of fertile lands, or are distinguished for a more salubrious climate, it is yet very thinly settled. The whole population probably does not exceed four hundred souls, and there are no towns or villages worthy of notice.

## FAYETTE COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded north by Bastrop county; east by Washington and Austin counties; south by Colorado county; and west by Gonzales county. Its specific boundaries as defined by the acts of congress, are as follows, viz. "Beginning at Grassmeyer's ferry on the Colorado; thence in a north-easterly direction at right angles with the general course of the river Colorado, to the dividing ridge between the waters of Colorado and the Brazos; thence down said ridge, in a south-easterly direction to the south-west corner of a league of land granted to Wm. Burnett; thence south-westwardly, crossing Colorado river, where the upper line of a league of land granted to J. Duty, corners upon the same; thence continuing the same course to the Labacca, at the upper corner of a league of land, granted to Wm. Ponton; thence up the Labacca with the line between Austin and Dewitt's colony to the head of said stream; thence in a north-easterly direction to the place of beginning." By an act of congress approved May 3d, 1838, the south-western boundary of this county was established as follows, viz. "Beginning at the north-east corner of a quarter of a league of land granted to — Stiffler."

This county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with

the counties of Bastrop and Travis. It forms a part of the fourth judicial district.

*Surface.*—This county presents a singular diversity of surface. The eastern portion is beautifully undulating, the middle is diversified with hills of a moderate elevation, alternating with broad plains and gentle undulations. The western portion consists chiefly of an immense plain, slightly inclined towards the south-west, and furrowed by numerous small tributaries of the Navidad and Labacca. This plain suddenly terminates near Buckner's creek, and an abrupt precipitous range of sandstone, two or three hundred feet high, separates it from the extensive plains extending northwards from this stream to the Colorado. The view from the summit of this precipitous range is one of the most delightful and extensive that the country affords, comprising one of the largest, most fertile and beautiful sections of the Colorado valley. The ascent to the summit of this precipitous range, from the waters of the Labacca, is so gradual, that the traveller often finds himself directly on the verge of the precipice, without noticing that he has been making any ascent whatever. The prairies of this county are not extensive, but are so interspersed with "islets of timber," and alternate so regularly with the forests of the numerous streams, that the whole country appears as if prepared by art for the convenience of the agriculturist.

*Soil.*—The soil of this county consists chiefly of a rich sandy loam, remarkably friable. It is

generally from one to twenty feet deep, and rests upon a stratum of sandstone. It is chiefly composed of the debris of the secondary rocks, and contains a large proportion of lime. In the northern part of the county, there are a few small tracts of land that are rendered almost sterile, by deposits of siliceous pebbles which appear to have been strowed abroad over the country by fluvial agency. Oats and barley and most of the grains cultivated in the middle states of the union, may be advantageously cultivated in this county. The apple, pear, peach and other fruits thrive well here.

*Streams.*—The Colorado flows through this county. The other streams are quite small, and hardly deserve notice; the principal are Buckner's creek, a shallow rapid stream of pure wholesome water, on the west; and Rubb's and Cummin's creeks on the east, the latter are sluggish shallow streams, and are often nearly dry throughout the summer and autumnal months.

*Forest Trees.*—In this county are extensive groves of live oak and cedar. Post oak and white oak predominate. A few miles above Lagrange are large forests of pine; elm, ash, hickory and pecan are also abundant.

*Minerals.*—The prevailing rock near the surface in this county is sandstone, which in some places has a very fine grain, and resembles free stone. There are also extensive beds of chalky marl, containing various organic remains. Gypsum, or rather selenite, remarkably transparent,

has been discovered in the banks of Rubb's creek. Large trunks of silicified trees are found in various sections, lying near the ledges of sandstone that traverse the county, and resemble the cliffs of a sea-washed shore. This sandstone is in part composed of comminuted shells. Some specimens of the agatised wood of these trees, are beautifully variegated, and would afford the lapidary excellent materials for ornaments. A large bed of lignite is found in the banks of the Colorado a few miles above Lagrange, it is one or two feet thick, and is embedded in the alluvial deposit of sandy loam.

*Towns.*—Lagrange the county seat and principal town, is beautifully situated on the east bank of Colorado river, about fifty miles below Austin, one hundred above Matagorda, and the same distance west of Houston. It contains about one hundred houses, including a court house and jail, and will probably in a few years become a place of considerable importance. The quarries of fine grained sandstone, and forests of pine and cedar in the vicinity, afford inexhaustible supplies of excellent building materials. Should the navigation of the Colorado be opened, this place will furnish the country below with "building materials," and will probably also become the centre of the trade of an exceedingly fertile and populous section. Population 500.

Rutersville, situated in the heart of a beautiful and picturesque country, is about four miles from Lagrange, and is noted for its infant semi-

nary, which already is the most promising in the republic. This place contains about seventy houses, and its population is about 200. It possesses no commercial advantages.

*Population.*—The population of this county is rapidly increasing; the fertility of the soil, the salubrity of the climate, and the facility with which building materials of the best quality can be procured, render this county one of the most important and desirable portions of the republic, and it has already attracted and will continue to attract thousands of eager emigrants to its extending settlements.



## FORT BEND COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded north by Austin county, east by Harris county, south by Brazoria county, and west by Matagorda county. It was created by an act of congress, approved December 29, 1837, which defines its limits as follows: "Beginning on the east side of the Brazos river at the upper corner of a league of land granted to Francis Biggam, on which said Biggam now lives; thence east with the north boundary of said league to its north-east corner, continuing on the Harrisburg and Brazoria county line; three leagues from thence to the head of Bray's

bayou, where stands a low elm ; thence running from the head of Bray's bayou to a point on Buffalo bayou, where the present county line, running from Jesse Cartwright's league, crosses the bayou ; thence northwardly to the south-east corner of Fulshear's league of land on the Brazos river ; thence west with the south boundary of said league to said river ; thence crossing said river, and following its western bank to the mouth of Sixteen-mile creek ; thence up said creek to its source ; thence in a southwardly direction to the south-east corner of G. Cole's land ; thence westwardly with said Cole's lower line to the San Bernard ; thence down said stream to the south-west corner of League No. 8 ; thence with the lower line of said league to the south-east corner ; thence in a direct line to the south prong of Cow bayou ; thence down said bayou to its mouth ; thence crossing the Brazos, and up said river to the place of beginning." These boundaries have been modified by an act of congress, approved January, 1840. It is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Austin and Colorado counties. It forms a part of the second judicial district.

*Surface.*—This county is a plain almost uniformly level, and furrowed by the Brazos and Bernard, and their numerous small tributaries. The streams are lined with dense forests ; the remainder of the county is an open bleak prairie. Probably three-quarters of this county is open prairie.

*Soil.*—The soil of this county resembles in every respect that of the adjoining counties of Harris and Brazoria. Along the Brazos it consists chiefly of a rich chocolate coloured loam twenty or thirty feet deep. In the prairies the soil is generally a black mould resting in many places upon clay. Along the Bernard the soil is somewhat sandy, but is warm and quite productive. The soil of the bottom lands will generally produce from one to two bales of cotton to the acre, that of the prairies only about one bale. The prairies are generally covered with a dense mat of grass, and afford excellent pasturage to numerous herds of cattle.

*Forest trees.*—The forest trees of this county consist chiefly of peccan, elm, ash, hickory, and post-oak. Live oak abounds on the Brazos. Pine and magnolia are found on some of the small streams in the eastern part. The forests of the Brazos have a dense undergrowth of wild peach and cane.

*Minerals.*—This county affords but few minerals. A coarse sandstone is found near Richmond, in the bed of the Brazos, and probably underlies the whole soil of the county. A few siliceous minerals and silicified bones of the mastodon and other animals are found in the bed of the Brazos.

*Towns.*—Richmond, the county seat, is pleasantly situated upon an elevated bluff, forming here the west bank of the Brazos. It contains about thirty houses, and is a thriving village.

It is surrounded by one of the most densely settled and fertile sections of southern Texas, and if the Brazos should be rendered navigable to this point, will necessarily become a place of considerable importance. The Richmond Telescope, a weekly newspaper, is published at this place.

There are no other towns worthy of notice.



## GALVESTON COUNTY.

GALVESTON county is bounded north by the counties of Harris and Liberty, east by Jefferson county, and the Gulf of Mexico, south by that Gulf, and west by Brazoria county. It was created by an act of congress, approved May 15th, 1838, which defines its boundaries as follows, viz. "Beginning at the mouth of Highland bayou, and running up the same to its source; thence due north to the present line between the counties of Harrisburg and Brazoria; thence east with said line to the mouth of Clear creek; thence with the Bay of Galveston to Davis's Point (or Red-fish bar;) thence with Red-fish bar across the bay to Potter's Point; thence along the margin of East bay, including the same by the western boundary of Zavala's colony; thence due south to the Gulf of Mexico; thence with the coast of the Gulf to the place of begin-

ning." These boundaries embraced the entire Island of Galveston, and the waters and islands of the adjacent bay, including Deer Islands and the Island of San Louis. By an act of congress, approved January, 1840, the boundaries were so modified as to replace San Louis Island in the county of Brazoria. This county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with the counties of Harris and Liberty. It forms a part of the first judicial district.

*Surface.*—The county is level. There is not probably a portion of the county elevated more than twenty feet above the surface of the Gulf. A small grove of woods adjoins Clear creek; the remainder of the county is an open prairie, diversified by only two or three small groves of live oak. A ridge of sandy hillocks, varying from five to fifteen feet high, extends along the coast, at the distance of from a few rods to a quarter of a mile from the beach, and was probably a few years since the shore of the Gulf.

*Soil.*—The soil near the shore consists chiefly of a layer of black mould, varying from one to two feet in depth, and rests upon a layer of sand and comminuted shells. The whole of this county has probably within a recent geological era been lifted up from the waters of the Gulf, which are still slowly retiring. Shells of the same species as those now existing in the Gulf are found strown over the surface of the ground in the central portions of Galveston Island, and at a dis-

tance from the shore on the main land. And large logs are found two or three miles from the shore on the main land, evidently indicating that the whole country has been subject to inundations. The soil of this county produces excellent crops of sweet potatoes, melons, cotton, and various culinary vegetables.

*Minerals.*—Asphaltum and pumice stone are found on the shores of the Gulf, and occasionally mingled with the soil inland; they are found only in small pieces, and have evidently been thrown up by the waves.

*Galveston.*—The county seat is situated near the east end of Galveston Island, and only two years since contained but a few houses, and about one hundred inhabitants. It now contains five or six hundred houses, and about three thousand inhabitants. It is still rapidly increasing in wealth and population. There are two semi-weekly newspapers published in this city. Its harbour is the best in Texas, and will undoubtedly at no distant day become the centre of a commerce rivalling that of many of the first commercial cities of the world. The produce of many millions of acres of the most fertile lands of the globe, and of many rich mines of gold, silver, iron, and other valuable minerals, will necessarily be wasted to this place, rendering it the commercial emporium of Texas.

The *Port of Galveston* may be approached with less danger than any port in the United States, as the whole coast of Texas west of the

Sabine and near Galveston, in five fathoms water is the best of "holding ground;" and a vessel having good ground tackling, may ride at anchor with perfect safety throughout the year. Masters of vessels therefore bound for this port, need apprehend no danger from a lee-shore, as they have only to cast anchor in five or six fathoms water, and await the pilot in perfect security. The latitude and longitude of this port as laid down in the books and charts heretofore published, are incorrect. According to the statement of Mr. G. Simpson, the pilot of this port, the latitude is  $29^{\circ} 16' 37''$  north,  $94^{\circ} 49' 41''$  west longitude. Masters of vessels on sighting the city, if sailing for Galveston from the eastward, and the city bears a little to southward of south-west, should immediately haul off to six fathoms, the city bearing south-west by west. They will then be in a fair way for the bar. If they should be to the westward, they should run to the eastward until the city bears as above.

Galveston Island is about thirty-six miles long, and on an average two miles wide; it is destitute of trees, with the exception of three large live oaks near the centre of the Island, which serve as land marks: being apparently planted about one mile apart. The soil of a large portion of this island is very good, consisting of a rich black mould generally a foot thick, resting upon a bed of sand and shells. There are several small ponds of sweet wholesome water scattered along the coast. This place is continually

fanned during summer by refreshing sea breezes which render the air cool and healthy ; on this account it has become the summer resort of invalids from different portions of the low country of Texas. Immense beds of excellent oysters are found near the western shores, and large quantities of redfish, (the cod of the Gulf,) grandquoit, mullet, and two other species of excellent fish, styled sea perch, and sea trout, are caught on its shores. Innumerable flocks of wild geese, teal, brant, &c., make the prairies of this island and those of the neighbouring coast their winter abode.

This island was formerly the principal retreat of the celebrated pirate Lafitte. The ruins of his fortress are situated about two miles from the eastern extremity, on the western shore ; they consist of a few embankments of sand and shells, and several shallow ditches arranged in a quadrangular form.



## GOLIAD COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded north by Bexar county, east by Victoria county, south by Refugio: its western boundary is not defined. It is entitled to one representative, and comprised in the senatorial district with the counties of Refugio and

San Patricio. It forms a part of the fourth judicial district.

*Surface.*—The surface of this county is similar to the northern portion of the adjoining county of Victoria. There are a few low hills in the northern part. Almost the whole surface is gently undulating. Narrow forests extend along the San Antonio and other streams, but most of the county is open prairie, diversified with small groves of musquit and post oak. There are many deep rocky ravines along many of the streams.

*Soil.*—The soil of this county consists chiefly of a dark, sandy, calcareous loam, very fertile and productive. The lands in this county often suffer much from droughts; those lands however which are capable of irrigation are exceedingly productive, and yield large crops of corn, cotton, wheat, and potatoes. Figs, peaches, melons, and various kinds of culinary vegetables may be raised in abundance. Immense thickets of the nopal or prickly pear, and wild grapes of an excellent flavour, are found in every section.

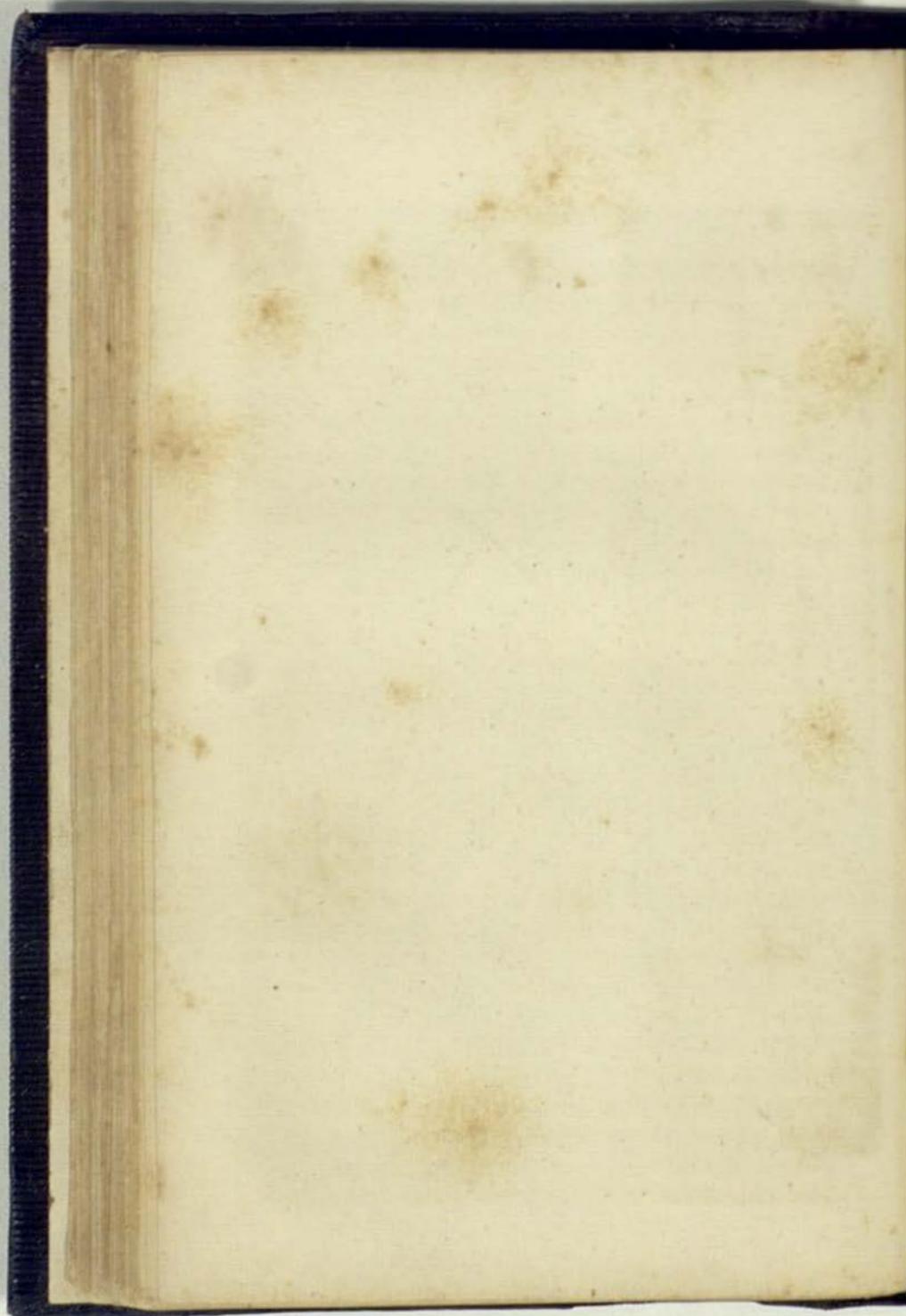
*Streams.*—The San Antonio is the principal stream. Its current here is quite rapid. It is in many places quite deep, and if the raft were removed from its mouth, would be navigable for small steamboats to near La Bahia, about ten miles below Goliad. Its waters here are not limpid and transparent as at Bexar, but have a milky tinge and deposit a limy sediment. In the

southern and western part, are several small streams of clear and wholesome water.

*Minerals.*—There are but few minerals worthy of notice found in this county. Quarries of excellent limestone are found in the northern part, and many beds of marl. Near Goliad a species of limestone is found that is so soft when first taken from the earth, that it may be cut into blocks and moulded almost as easily as clay. The blocks formed from this substance are called “dobies,” and are much used as a building material. They gradually become hard when exposed to the air. Many of the houses in Goliad are formed of these materials.

*Towns.*—Goliad or La Bahia, situated on a high rocky bluff, on the western bank of the San Antonio, is one of the oldest towns of Texas. There was a settlement at this place as early as 1716. It was formerly a place of great importance, and contained several thousand inhabitants. Its name implies “the place of strength,” and its fortifications previous to the revolution, were considered by the Spaniards as impregnable. It was built almost entirely of stone, and contained many spacious and commodious dwellings; most of these are quite dilapidated and are falling to decay. It contains an old fort and church, which are still in a very good state of preservation. On the opposite bank of the river, there is an ancient “mission” built entirely of stone. It is now in ruins, and resembles one of the ancient abbeys of England. The town was first built on the east-





ern bank near this church. Goliad is now almost entirely deserted. There are about fifty or sixty settlers here, but they remain rather as sojourners than as permanent residents. There are no other settlements worthy of notice. The county has been almost entirely depopulated since the revolution. Should peace be established, it would soon be resettled; as it is considered one of the most fertile, healthy and beautiful sections of the republic.



### GONZALES COUNTY:

THIS county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Bastrop, Fayette and Travis. It forms a part of the fourth judicial district.

*Boundaries.*—Gonzales county is bounded on the north by Bastrop county, on the east by the counties of Fayette, Colorado, and Bastrop, on the south by the county of Victoria, and on the west by Bexar.

The following are the boundaries as furnished by the chief justice: "Beginning on the Labacca river within ten leagues of the bay; thence with said stream to its source; thence north to the San Antonio road; thence west with said road two leagues west of the Gaudalupe river; thence

parallel with the meanders of the Gaudalupe river at the distance of two leagues west from said stream to within ten leagues of Matagorda bay; thence with the ten border leagues to the place of beginning."

*Surface.*—This county presents almost a continued series of rolling prairies gently undulating at the south, but swelling into high bold eminences at the north.

The streams are generally lined with forests; the remainder of the country is beautifully variegated with insulated groves of post oak, and mesquit, scattered throughout the open prairies.

*Soil and productions.*—The soil of this county resembles that of Bexar. Along the Labacca, Gaudalupe and San Antonio, it consists of a rich, black mould, remarkably fertile and productive; between these streams, it is intermixed with sand in many places, which renders it less compact and stiff, but not less productive. Cotton, corn, potatoes, sugar cane, rye, oats, barley, &c., are produced in abundance. Great quantities of excellent grapes, yielding a wine similar to the best Oporto, are found in the forest along the banks of the streams; also a species of small plum, about the size of the common cherry, growing upon a small bush two or three feet high.

*Streams.*—The Gaudalupe flows through the western part of the county; it is one of the principal rivers in Texas, being here about one hundred and fifty yards wide and five or six feet deep: it is noted for its singular blue colour.

The water of this stream appears quite limpid and pure when placed in a glass. The principal tributaries of this river are the San Marco (a large stream) and the Peach creek on the east, and the Sandy on the west. The Labacca is a small stream of clear wholesome water flowing along the eastern boundary, over a sandy bed intermixed with gravel.

*Minerals.*—There are extensive beds of iron ore in the northern part. About twenty miles above Gonzales great quantities of geodes filled with sand, and from four inches to a foot in diameter, are found imbedded in a high cliff of reddish loam. These singular substances resemble cast iron bomb shells, and when broken form useful articles of kitchen furniture, answering for jars, basins, &c. Many deposits of lime called chalk beds are found in the banks of the streams. In Peach creek, about fifteen miles from Gonzales, there is a large siliceified tree. Salt is found on the eastern branch of the Sandy, south-west of Gonzales.

*Forest trees.*—Live oak, post oak, Spanish oak, elm, ash, black walnut, cypress, musquit, and pine at the north-east.

*Gonzales.*—The county seat, handsomely situated on the east bank of the Gaudalupe, sixty-five miles from the bay and forty-five miles from the mountains, was one of the most flourishing towns of Texas previous to the war; it was the centre of an extensive trade, and possessed several remarkably beautiful edifices. This place

was burnt by the Texian army when it retreated to the Colorado, March 10th, 1836. It is now slowly recovering its former importance.



### HARRIS COUNTY.

THIS county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Galveston and Liberty. It forms a part of the first judicial district.

*Boundaries.*—This county is bounded on the north by Montgomery county, on the east by Liberty county and Galveston bay, on the south by Galveston and Brazoria counties, and on the west by Brazoria and Austin counties.

*Surface.*—This county is remarkably level at the south, gently undulating at the north. The streams and the northern coast of the bay are lined with forests; the remainder of the county, comprising nearly four-fifths of its surface, is open prairie.

*Soil and productions.*—The soil within ten miles of the coast is rather poor, consisting of a thin layer of black mould resting upon a bed of sand and shells. At the middle and northern parts, the layer of black mould is in many places three or four feet thick, and the substratum consists of sand and shells alternating with deep beds of reddish loam. The eastern portion of

the county contains some of the finest land in eastern Texas. Corn, cotton, potatoes and oats are raised in abundance. The land on San Jacinto bay has produced twenty eight hundred pounds of seed cotton to the acre; sixty bushels of corn and four hundred bushels of potatoes are not uncommon crops; two crops of Irish potatoes are frequently raised, affording eight hundred bushels an acre, in one year.

*Streams.*—The principal streams are the Brazos, San Jacinto, Buffalo bayou, Cedar creek, and Clear creek. The San Jacinto is navigable about forty miles; its water is remarkably clear and wholesome. Buffalo bayou is navigable about thirty miles. Cedar creek is navigable about twenty miles. These streams resemble long serpentine lakes rather than rivers; their currents are scarcely perceptible, and they are generally very deep, capable in many places of floating large schooners, even where they are only twenty feet wide.

*Forest trees.*—Pine predominates in the bordering forests of the San Jacinto, Buffalo bayou and their numerous branches. There are also great quantities of magnolia, cypress, cedar, black oak, white oak, red oak, and a species of oak called Spanish oak. The immense quantities of valuable timber contained in the forests of this county, will eventually render them important sources of wealth.

*Minerals.*—In the northern part, ten or twelve feet below the surface are found many extensive

ledges of "rotten limestone," and numerous beds of clay.

*Towns.*—Houston, formerly the capitol of the republic, and now the county seat, is beautifully situated on Buffalo and White Oak bayous, at their junction, and about thirty miles above the junction of the former with the San Jacinto. Its site is partly within the bordering forests of those streams and partly in the adjoining prairie. The banks of these streams are here about seventy feet above tide water, and as the surface gradually declines towards them and the several small creeks that communicate with them, the city can be drained with great facility and rendered quite dry and free from pools of stagnant water. There are no swamps near, and no local causes of disease; and if its health police should continue to be well regulated, it will prove one of the healthiest cities of Texas. It is the first city of the republic with regard to population and wealth, and is probably still the most flourishing. It contains about fifty stores, several large and commodious hotels, two steam saw mills, and many spacious and elegant mansions. There is an excellent public school in this city. The neighbouring country furnishes immense quantities of pine lumber and other materials of construction. There is a very large amount of capital concentrated here, and as it is situated at the head of navigation on Buffalo bayou, and commands the trade of the most extensive, fertile and flourishing section of the country, it will

probably continue to increase in population and wealth with unabated rapidity for many years. Its citizens have ever been distinguished for their energy and enterprise, and will undoubtedly within a few years, connect it by appropriate internal improvements with most of the populous and flourishing settlements of the middle counties of the republic. There are already five steamboats plying constantly between this place and Galveston, and one occasionally runs between the settlements on the Trinity. There are two daily papers and one weekly paper published in this city. These are substantial evidences of its prosperous and flourishing condition.

Harrisburg, situated six miles from Houston, was formerly a place of considerable importance; it was burnt by order of Santa Anna, April 17th, 1836. Since the battle of San Jacinto, it has been slowly rising from its ruins.



## HARRISON COUNTY.

THIS county was created by an act of Congress, in Jan. 1839. Its boundaries as defined by the above mentioned act are as follows, viz: "Beginning at the mouth of Murral's bayou; thence in a direct line to Norris's crossing of the Attoyac river; thence up the same to its source, or to

the crossing of Trammel's trace; thence with said trace to the Sabine river; thence up the same to the Cherokee crossing; thence along the road leading to Jonesborough to the big Cypress bayou; thence down the road to Lake Sodo; thence east to the boundary line between this republic and the United States; thence due south to the Sabine river; thence up or down said river, as the case may be, to the place of beginning." It was formerly a part of Shelby county. It is bounded on the north by Red River county, on the east by Louisiana, on the south by Shelby county, and west by the county of Nacogdoches.

This county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Sabine and Shelby. It forms a part of the seventh judicial district.

*Surface.*—The general surface of this county is a plain, slightly inclined towards the south-east; even the valleys through which the principal streams flow, are depressed but a few feet below the almost uniform level of the surface. There are a few small prairies in the north-western part, the remainder of the county is overshadowed with a dense forest.

*Streams.*—The streams of this county are all small; the principal are the Sabine, Attoyac, Murrals bayou, Big and Little Cypress. The Sabine is navigable for keel-boats about twenty miles, and the Big Cypress and Murrals bayou, about six miles. The latter stream is quite slug-

gish ; the others have generally rapid currents, and their waters are very limpid and wholesome.

*Forest trees.*—The forest trees of this country are generally quite large. The species vary but little from those of Red River county, consisting chiefly of hickory, walnut, elm, red oak, white oak, black oak, cypress and pine.

*Minerals.*—Few minerals have yet been discovered in this county. The only rock that is found near the surface is a coarse sandstone. A deposit of excellent coal has been found in the bed of the Sabine, about thirty miles above the southern line of the county.

*Population.*—There are no large villages ; all the settlements of this county have been formed within a few years, and are chiefly confined to the eastern part. Since the expulsion of the Cherokees, great numbers of emigrants have been attracted to this county, and it will probably in a few years, be one of the most populous sections of eastern Texas.

*Soil.*—There are a few ridges of poor sandy land, between the Big and Little Cypress bayous. The soil of the remainder of the county is generally fertile, consisting chiefly of a rich black or dark brown mould, resting upon a bed of red loam, and produces excellent crops of cotton, maize and potatoes. It is believed that the apple and pear may be advantageously cultivated in this county.

## HOUSTON COUNTY.

*Boundaries.*—This county is bounded on the north and east by the county of Nacogdoches, on the south by the county of Liberty, and on the west by the Trinity river. According to an act establishing this county, its boundaries are as follows:

“Beginning on the east bank of Trinity river, at a point two leagues above the mouth of Kickapoo creek; from thence in a north-easterly direction, to the Neches, at the mouth of Big Pine creek; thence up the Neches to the thirty-second degree of north latitude; thence due west to the Trinity river; thence down the said river to the place of beginning.”

This county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Nacogdoches. It forms a part of the fifth judicial district.

*Soil and productions.*—The soil of this county is generally good and of a mulatto colour. Near the Neches it is somewhat sandy. Near the Trinity it is excellent, and the hickory uplands in the northern and central parts present some of the finest arable lands in America. This county is so new that few of its agricultural resources have yet been developed; corn, cotton and potatoes are nearly the only vegetables which have yet been cultivated.

*Surface.*—This county is a continued series

of rolling swells, or gentle undulations overshadowed by one almost continuous forest. Near the Trinity are a few small prairies, the largest of which is Mustang Prairie, only two miles broad and of a circular form.

*Streams.*—There are no large streams in this county, it is however remarkably well watered, by innumerable small streams and springs of pure and wholesome water, which, together with the pure atmosphere, render this one of the healthiest sections of eastern Texas.

*Forest trees.*—This county of forests presents a great variety of timber, among which are found the black walnut, linden, hickory, "Black Jack," almost every species of oak, elm, and in the southern and eastern portions immense quantities of pine of the best quality.

*Minerals.*—Iron ore abounds in the northern part; beds of "rotten limestone" are occasionally found beneath the surface. In the middle and northern parts are found great numbers of siliceified trees, imbedded in the soil, some in a horizontal position, but most of them are nearly upright and leaning towards the north, as if they had been fastened in that position by the alluvial deposit in which they are imbedded, precipitating suddenly from a current flowing from the south, and partially elevating them on one of their ends. They are generally of a light grey or reddish brown colour, and are so hard that they give fire with steel. They are evidently a variety of acatized wood.

## JACKSON COUNTY.

*Boundaries.*—The municipality of Jackson is to be comprehended in the following boundary, to wit: beginning at a point on Matagorda bay, equidistant from the Trespacios and Caranca bayous, and from thence running by a dividing line, to the head waters of the Trespacios bayou; and from thence a due north course to the northern boundary line of the municipality of Matagorda; thence along said boundary line a due west course to the Labacca river; thence down the centre of said river to the anchorage ground of the Labacca bay in the Matagorda bay; thence to the eastward along the northern shore of Matagorda bay to the place of beginning.

This county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Matagorda and Victoria. It forms a part of the fourth judicial district.

*Surface.*—The whole surface of this county is gently undulating, being situated within the "rolling prairie" region. The streams are lined with forests; the remainder of the county is open.

*Soil and productions.*—The soil is excellent, consisting of a rich black mould, very deep, and resting upon a bed of red loam. There is hardly an acre of barren land in the whole county. The productions are similar to those of Brazoria and

Austin counties. Indigo is produced in abundance.

*Streams.*—The Navidad and Labacca are the principal streams; their waters are very clear and wholesome; they are both navigable about thirty-five miles for steamboats drawing three feet of water. The Caranca and Trespalacios are small sluggish streams. The whole county is well watered by numerous springs.

Texana, the county seat, is a delightful situation on the right bank of the Navidad, at the head of steamboat navigation, and in the centre of one of the most fertile sections of Texas. Its site is partly within the bordering forest of the Navidad, partly within a beautiful prairie, extending westerly several miles to the woody fringe of the Labacca. The soil of this prairie is exceedingly rich and productive, the layer of black mould forming it, being generally two or three feet deep. This town is yet quite small, containing only about fifty houses, but its commanding situation must eventually render it one of the principal inland towns of Texas.

This county possesses a very small population thinly scattered over its surface. A large number of most excellent farms have remained wholly unimproved since the fall of the Alamo. The former planters however are now slowly returning to their homes, accompanied by hundreds of enterprising settlers from the United States, whose industry and perseverance, are

rapidly removing the remaining vestiges of the war from its limits.



### JASPER COUNTY.

*Boundaries.*—This county is bounded on the north by San Augustine county, on the east by the Sabine, on the south by Jefferson county, and west by the Neches. The following are its boundaries as furnished by the chief justice.

“Beginning at Grant’s Bluff on the Neches river, being the south-west corner of said county, and thence running east to the Sabine river; thence up said river to the mouth of Little Cow creek; thence up said creek to the head; thence in a straight line to the junction of the Ayish bayou and Bear creek; thence down said bayou to the St. Angelina; thence in a western direction to Johnson’s Saline on the Neches; thence down said river to the beginning, making the county about twenty-five miles in breadth and fifty in length.”

This county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Jefferson. It forms a part of the sixth judicial district.

*Surface.*—This county is undulating at the south and hilly at the north; there are one or

two elevations, called mountains at the north-west; they however are only two or three hundred feet high. There are no prairies, the whole county being situated in the wooded region of Texas.

*Soil and productions.*—This is one of the poorest counties of Texas; it however possesses many extensive tracts of excellent land. The soil in the eastern part is generally good, consisting of a shallow layer of black mould resting upon a layer of reddish loam intermixed with sand. In the middle and western parts the soil is quite sandy, at a distance from the streams. The valleys of the Neches and Angelina which are subject to overflowing to the distance of from one to three miles on each side, are very fertile, the layer of black mould forming the soil being in many places from two to three feet deep, producing excellent crops of corn, cotton, sugar, &c.

*Streams.*—This county is remarkable for its numerous small streams of pure wholesome water. The Neches and the Angelina are the only navigable rivers; the former where it forms the western boundary, is generally seventy yards wide, and ten or fifteen feet deep. The latter is generally fifty yards wide, and navigable for small steamboats to Zavala.

*Towns.*—Jasper, the county seat, situated on the west bank of Sandy creek, in an extensive plain, contains only about twelve or fourteen houses. There are many excellent farms in its vicinity.

*Zarala*—Is situated on the east bank of the Angelina, in a broad plain, extending several miles eastward and generally elevated more than a hundred feet above the bed of the river.

*Curiosities*.—In the northern part are found many whole trunks of trees petrified and resembling the siliceous petrefactions of Houston county. They are so hard that they are frequently used as flints to kindle tinder; they are of a light grey colour; some of them are more than two feet in diameter, and are generally found lying upon the sandy knolls.



## JEFFERSON COUNTY.

*Boundaries*.—This county is bounded on the north by Jasper county, east by the Sabine, south by the Gulf, and west by Liberty county. The following are the boundaries as furnished by the chief justice.

Beginning on the Gulf at a point that a line running due north will cross the road leading from "Tives' Bluff" to Liberty at "Wolf point," to continue north to Big Sandy; thence down said creek to its mouth; thence eastwardly to the mouth of Big Cypress creek; thence down the Sabine to the Gulf, and thence westwardly along said Gulf to the place of beginning.

This county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Jasper. It forms a part of the sixth judicial district.

*Surface.*—This county is an almost uniformly level plain; there is at the north a strip of timbered country about ten or fifteen miles broad, extending across the county; the remaining surface is open prairie, embracing many extensive swamps.

*Soil and productions.*—Near the western boundary, near the Neches, and in the middle portion near the eastern boundary the soil is excellent, consisting of a black sandy mould, resting upon a bed of yellow clay intermixed with sand; the remainder of the county is generally poor, and better adapted to grazing than tillage. The large swamps which disfigure this county are remarkably well adapted to the cultivation of rice.

*Streams.*—The Neches is navigable throughout the whole extent of the county. Adams's bayou and Cow bayou, are navigable for small steamboats about thirty-five miles. Cypress bayou is navigable about fifteen miles.

*Jefferson.*—The county seat, situated on the east bank of Cow bayou, at the head of navigation, has recently been laid off into a township; it is surrounded by numerous excellent farms, and contains about twenty houses.

Sabine city, situated near the mouth of the Sabine river, is yet a mere hamlet, but will pro-

bably within a few years attain an important rank among the cities of the republic. The harbour here is excellent, and vessels drawing nine feet water can cross the bar without difficulty. The trade of the settlements on the Sabine, Neches, and its tributaries will probably centre at this point. These rivers water an extensive, fertile, and very populous section.

*Natural Curiosity.*—At the south-western corner on the coast, there is a singular eminence or headland about a mile and a half long and half a mile broad, surmounted by four small islets of timber from which it probably derives its name of High Islands. The soil on this remarkable hillock is an exceeding rich black mould, resting upon a bed of reddish clay. The whole country adjoining this eminence for many miles in extent is a uniformly level plain.



## LIBERTY COUNTY.

*Boundaries.*—This county is bounded on the north by Houston county, on the east by Jasper and Jefferson counties, on the south by the Gulf and Galveston county, on the west by Galveston bay and Harris county. It is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Galveston and Harris. It forms part of the first judicial district.

*Surface.*—This county is level at the south, but gently undulating at the north. The southern part near the Gulf is an open grassy plain, destitute of trees; the middle portion contains many extensive prairies, intersected by narrow lines of woods bordering the numerous small streams or bayous. The northern part is an almost continuous forest.

*Soil and productions.*—The soil of this county is generally light and sandy, consisting in the southern portion of a thin layer of black mould, resting upon a bed of sand and shells. In the middle and northern parts the layer of black mould is generally a foot or eighteen inches deep, and the substratum of sand and shells gives place in many extensive tracts to a layer of yellow loam. Near the Trinity the soil is generally exceedingly rich and productive, but liable to inundation. The uplands of the middle and northern portions of this county afford some of the finest cotton lands of Texas; the southern portion is best adapted to grazing.

*Streams.*—The Trinity is the only stream of importance; it is generally about eighty yards wide and eight or ten feet deep with a rapid current; at its mouth there is a broad sand bar, which is the only obstruction to its navigation. It often overflows the country, to the distance of three miles on each side. A steamboat occasionally plies between the city of Galveston and Houston, and the settlements on this river below Cincinnati.

*Forest trees.*—Post oak, white oak, red oak, cedar, cypress, and pine, abound in the middle and northern parts.

*Towns.*—Liberty, the county seat, is situated on the east side of the Trinity, thirty miles from its mouth and eighty miles from the Sabine. It contains only ten or twelve houses, and is surrounded by many excellent farms.

Anahuac is the largest town in this county. It is situated in a beautiful, elevated prairie, on the north-east side of Galveston bay, a short distance below the mouth of the Trinity. This was formerly a place of considerable importance and the centre of an extensive trade; it contains about sixty houses, most of which are now vacant.



## MATAGORDA COUNTY.

*Boundaries.*—This county is bounded on the north by Colorado county, on the east by Brazoria county, south by the Gulf, and west by Jackson county. The following are the boundaries as furnished by the chief justice :

“Commencing at the entrance of the outlet of Cedar lake into the Gulf of Mexico; and from thence up the said outlet and through the Cedar lake, to the upper line of Harrison’s league; thence westward to Linnville’s bayou; thence up the same to the lower line of the twelfth

league west of the San Bernard river; thence along the said line to said river; thence up the middle branch thereof to the intersection of a line extending from the head of Big creek to the Colorado river, at the upper line of the Kincheloe league; thence along the said line to said river; thence westward to the head of the Trespalacios; and from thence to the dividing ridge between that creek and the Karankaway; thence down the said ridge to the bay of Matagorda; thence through the main channel to the Gulf of Mexico; thence along the shore of said Gulf to the place of beginning."

This county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Jackson and Victoria. It forms a part of the second judicial district.

*Surface.*—The whole county is almost uniformly level; there are a few slight undulations at the north. The Colorado and Caney are bordered by very broad forests, extending in many places six or seven miles on either side. The smaller streams are bordered by narrow belts of forest. The remainder of the county, comprising more than two-thirds of its surface, is open prairie.

*Soil and productions.*—This is one of the richest and most productive counties of Texas; the soil consisting generally of a very deep, rich black mould, entirely free from stones, resting upon a bed of reddish loam. Near the Caney the soil is of a mulatto colour, light and friable

near the banks of this stream, clammy and adhesive near the prairies; it is distinguished for its astonishing fertility. The crops of corn, cotton, sugar and potatoes, raised in this county, are equal to any produced in any part of Texas. The Agave or American Aloe, grows in abundance upon the numerous shell banks near the coast.

*Streams.*—The Colorado empties into the bay in this county, by two outlets about two miles apart. The navigation of this stream is completely obstructed within sixteen miles of its mouth, by immense quantities of drift wood, forming several large rafts scattered at intervals along the river to the distance of four or five miles; the largest of these rafts is about five hundred yards long, extending entirely across the stream. Above these the Colorado is a broad, deep, rapid stream, and its waters throughout this county are generally coloured by the reddish mud along its banks. The Caney is a small sluggish stream of muddy water; it is navigable for small steamboats about thirty miles; it is remarkable for its high banks, which rise in many places forty or fifty feet above its surface. Peyton's or Bay Prairie creek, is a small stream of clear, pure, wholesome water, navigable thirty miles. Live Oak creek and the Trespalacios are small sluggish streams.

*Towns.*—Matagorda, the county seat, is the only important town; it is situated on an elevated plain, at the south-western corner of Bay Prairie,

two miles east of the left outlet of the Colorado ; it contains about one hundred houses, and its population is rapidly increasing. The Colorado Gazette, a weekly newspaper, is published at this place. When the raft of the Colorado shall have been removed and its navigation opened, this town will undoubtedly become the depot of one of the most fertile, productive and extensive sections of Texas. Its harbour is excellent, and at all seasons affords admission to vessels drawing eight or nine feet of water.



## MILAM COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded north by unexplored territory, east by the Brazos, south by Washington county, and west by Bastrop and Travis counties. It is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Robertson. It forms a part of the third judicial district.

*Surface.*—Ranges of high hills styled the Colorado Mountains, extend across the western portion of the county. Their general direction is from north-east to south-west. They furnish the sources of the Brushy San Gabriel, San Leon, St. Andrews, Pecan and other streams. The remainder of the county is gently undulating. A large portion is open prairie, but forests are

scattered so generally over the surface, that timber is abundant in every section.

*Soil and productions.*—The soil of this county is generally of an excellent quality, yielding from 40 to 60 bushels of corn to the acre; and from 2000 to 3000 lbs. of seed cotton. Indigo grows in great abundance spontaneously, and would unquestionably be found a very profitable crop, if reduced to cultivation. Irish and sweet potatoes are produced in great abundance, and are of the best quality. This portion of Texas will undoubtedly soon become one of the finest grain growing countries in the world. It cannot be surpassed by any country for rye and oats; and from an experiment made last year by Alexander Thompson, Esq., living twelve miles west of Tenoxiclan, we might almost venture to add, wheat. From one peck of seed, he raised ten bushels of excellent wheat. The whole country affords an abundance of excellent pasture, and facilities for raising immense herds of cattle. Vast herds of wild cattle of the domestic breed, and buffaloes, are found in the northern and western parts of this county.

*Streams.*—This county is remarkably well watered, and abounds in beautiful, purling streams of pure and wholesome water. The Brazos, which forms the eastern boundary, differs little here from its appearance nearer the coast. It is unquestionably susceptible of steamboat navigation, to the great falls, and will no doubt be navigated so soon as the country shall become

sufficiently settled to require it. The water of this river is sometimes quite brackish at the falls, owing to the fact that one of its branches runs more than 70 miles through a bed of salt. In low water or when this branch prevails, the river is sometimes affected for near 300 miles. The Red Fork enters this river near the great falls. It is a beautiful stream of about 180 miles in length, and runs through a body of red land. Little River enters the Brazos from the west one mile and a half above Nashville. Its principal branches are the St. Andrews and San Gabriel. This river and its tributaries are said to water more good land than any other in the republic. Cow creek and Bosque river are also considerable streams, entering the Brazos from the west.

The Pecan river is a beautiful stream of about 100 miles in length, and enters the Colorado near the mouth of the San Saba.

*Forest trees.*—These are generally white, red, post, and Spanish oak, pecan, cottonwood, ash, elm, black walnut and holly.

*Towns.*—There are no towns of much importance in this county; but the population is increasing with great rapidity.

Nashville, on the west of the Brazos, (the place known as Viesca on the map,) is now the county seat, and the principal town in the county. It contains about 400 souls, and is one of the most delightful situations in Texas. It has an abundance of fine water, and is very healthy.

Tenoxiclan, 12 miles below, is an old Mexi-

can station, but is now nearly deserted. It contains but 4 or 5 houses.

The inhabitants of the county are principally settled on and near the Brazos below Nashville. There are probably about 800 inhabitants in the county.

*Mines and minerals.*—Rich silver mines, and lead and copper abound in the western part of the county.

Copperas and alum are found in great abundance in many parts. It contains some valuable quarries of stone. On the waters of Davidson's creek, is a valuable quarry of mill-stone grit; iron ore is found in abundance.

Petrifactions similar to those described in Houston county, may be found in the southern part of this county, near Tenoxiclan. The bank of the Brazos between Tenoxiclan and Nashville is said to contain a valuable quarry of mill-stone.

Salt water is found in many parts of the county.



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded north by the old San Antonio road, west by the Navasoto and Brazos rivers, south by Austin and Harris counties, and east by Liberty county and the Trinity river.

This county is entitled to one representative,

and is comprised in the senatorial district with Washington. It forms a part of the first judicial district.

*Surface.*—A range of high hills extend across the northern part of the county; the middle and southern sections lying in the undulating region of Texas, are nearly level. The streams are skirted with broad belts of timber; the remainder of the county consists of small prairies, interspersed with islets of timber, except the northeastern part, which is almost entirely woodland.

*Streams.*—The Brazos and Navasoto form a part of the western and northern boundary. The San Jacinto, Lake creek, and Bedais, rise in this county; the latter three are all small streams, and are remarkable for their clear and wholesome water.

*Forest trees.*—Pine predominates in the bottoms of the San Jacinto, and Navasoto. Post oak, white oak, cedar, hickory, bass-wood, cotton-wood, and ash, are found in abundance; also black walnut, cherry, and beach. Immense quantities of excellent building timber are found in the section situated between the San Jacinto and Lake creek.

*Soil and productions.*—The soil of the bottom lands consists generally of a very rich, black mould, often four or five feet deep; near the northern part a series of ridges, on high undulations, extend across the county, affording but a scanty growth of post oak, pine, and black jack; the soil of the prairies in the southern and middle

portions of the county is generally excellent for grazing.

*Minerals and mineral waters.*—In the northern part, near the mouth of the Navasoto, is a celebrated sulphur spring, which affords a large stream of water, highly impregnated with sulphur, and is the resort of invalids from various portions of the republic. A few limestone rocks are found in the eastern part of the county; also iron ore. A valuable spring of salt water has been recently found in the north-eastern part of the county.



## NACOGDOCHES COUNTY.

*Boundaries.*—Bounded on the north by the county of Red River, on the east by the Attoyac, on the south by Jasper and Liberty counties, and on the west by the Neches river.

Under the Mexican organization the Municipality of Nacogdoches formerly embraced territory sufficiently large for two respectable state governments, but the divisions made from time to time, have reduced it to the present county, which contains about 30,000 square miles.

This county is entitled to two representatives, and is comprised in the senatorial district with

Houston. It forms a part of the fifth judicial district.

*Surface.*—The surface is generally undulating; there are some pine hills near the centre. It is covered throughout by forest trees, with the exception of a few small prairies.

*Soil and productions.*—The Neches, Angelina and Attoyac rivers, afford rich black bottom lands, and their tributaries large quantities of hickory uplands, of a red and mulatto colour. North and south of Nacogdoches there is considerable pine timber, among which the soil is barren and sandy. The soil of this county is well adapted to the growth of cotton, corn, and all other productions generally grown in the same latitude. A great variety of grapes grow spontaneously, some of which are of delicious flavour, and would, by cultivation, become valuable for the manufacture of wine.

*Streams.*—The Neches, which bounds it on the west, will be navigable for small steamboats suitably constructed, as high as the San Antonio road; and the Angelina, which flows through its centre, to Mount Sterling; and the Attoyac on the east, to the San Augustine and Nacogdoches road; thus affording to its population, when its natural advantages shall be developed, commercial facilities surpassed by but few counties of the republic. It is interspersed throughout by creeks and branches of pure and running water. Springs are abundant, and the water excellent, and the well water is generally good. But few local

causes of disease exist, and its salubrity generally is perhaps equal to any portion of the globe having the same latitude and elevation. The diseases of the summer are mild remittent and intermittent fevers, which yield readily to proper remedies. The atmosphere is dry and elastic, and has the most salutary influence on constitutions which have become impaired by a long residence in the sickly regions bordering on the Gulf of Mexico. There are several mineral springs possessing valuable medicinal qualities, which at a day not distant will become places of resort for valitudinarians, and those who seek such places for purposes of recreation and amusement during the summer months.

Nacogdoches, the principal town, is handsomely situated on an elevated angular plain between, and just above the junction of the beautiful stream Bonito, on the west, and La Nana on the east. This town was one among the first established in Texas by Spain, and grew under her nurturing care to considerable importance; but during the revolutionary war which severed Mexico from that dominion, it sustained several times the ruinous consequences of a desolating warfare. It was used as a military post by Spain and Mexico, up to 1832, when the Mexican Centralist troops stationed there, were expelled by its citizens, and the inhabitants of the adjacent country. It is in lat. N. 31 deg. 40 min. and W. lon. from Washington, 17 deg. 17 min., is the county seat, contains about five hundred inhabitants, and at

the present time is rapidly improving. The Cherokee and Shawnee Indians occupy the north-western portion of the county.

*Curiosities.*—The most remarkable is the artificial circular mound near the Neches, on the plantation of Captain Bradshaw. The diameter of its base is about fifty yards, from which it rises with a steep ascent to an elevation of some fifty feet. It is on a high plain, overlooking the valley of a creek. The surface near its base is smooth, and the earth which forms the mound was evidently carried several hundred yards from the edge of an abrupt declivity, from which a large amount of earth seems to have been scooped.

*Minerals.*—The formation is entirely secondary, and affords but few specimens which are interesting to mineralogists. There is abundance argilacious oxide of iron. In some parts of the country imperfect limestone and sand rocks, strongly marked with marine impressions, are found, and the siliceous oxide of iron, which are sometimes employed as a coarse building material. Iron pyrites are occasionally discovered.

There can be a sufficient quantity of salt manufactured at the Saline on the Neches, at a cheap rate, to supply the demand for the surrounding country.

## RED RIVER COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded north by Red River, east by the United States, south by Harrison and Nacogdoches counties, and west by Nacogdoches and Fannin counties. It is entitled to three representatives, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Fannin county. It forms a part of the seventh judicial district.

*Surface.*—Most of the county is moderately uneven, and in many places beautifully variegated by low, gently sloping hills and broad valleys. There are a few small praires. The two largest are the Sulphur Fork prairie, near the north-western boundary line, and the Caddo prairie, near the south-eastern boundary. The former is about one hundred and twenty miles long and eight or nine broad, the latter is about eighteen miles long and three or four broad; most of the remainder of the county is covered with dense forests. The "Hickory Uplands" near Soda lake, constitute one of the most beautiful and productive portions of Texas. The hills here frequently rise from one to two hundred feet above the surface of the lake.

*Soil and productions.*—This is one of the most fertile portions of Texas. Nearly the whole of the northern and middle portions, embracing about two-thirds of the county, consist of arable land of the first quality. A portion of it is styled the "Red Lands," from the colour of its soil,

which is a reddish brown or chocolate colour. The land in the southern and south-eastern portions is somewhat sandy, well adapted to pasturage, excepting the land immediately bordering the Sabine, which is generally of an excellent quality. Most of the land in the northern and middle portions is capable of yielding crops averaging of cotton, a bale to the acre; of corn, 70 bushels, and of Irish potatoes, 500 bushels to the acre.

*Streams.*—The principal streams are Red River and Sulphur Fork; the latter with a little expense may be rendered navigable to “the Forks,” about one hundred and fifty miles. Besides these, there are several small tributaries of Red River, among which are Mill creek, Pine creek, Saunders’s creek and Big Pine creek. There are also at the south and west many beautiful rivulets, tributaries of Sabine and Trinity.

*Lakes.*—Along the course and near the Red River, are scattered a great number of small lakes, which probably have been formed by the waters of this stream, which has been set back by the immense raft which formerly blocked up its channel; the largest of these lakes is Caddo or Soda lake, near the south-eastern boundary. It is about one hundred and fifty miles long, and from two to twenty broad; most of it is quite shallow, and many trunks of the decaying trees, which formerly grew upon its present bed, still project from its bosom, rendering its navigation quite dangerous. Small steamboats are almost

constantly plying between the shores of this lake and the portion of Red River below.

*Towns.*—The principal towns are Jonesborough, Clarksville and Hidalgo. Jonesborough, situated on the right bank of Red River, about ten miles below Fort Towson, contains about fifty houses, and its population is rapidly increasing. Clarksville is a flourishing village, situated in a broad and beautiful prairie near the head of Sulphur Fork; it was first laid off for a town in July, 1833. Hidalgo, situated in the northern part of Saunders's prairie, on the bank of Red River, has lately been laid out, and promises to become one of the most flourishing villages of eastern Texas.

*Forest trees.*—Nearly every variety of the oak, except live oak, are found here, also walnut, ash, hackberry, elm, pecan, cedar and sassafras; spicewood, redbud and wild peach, constitute the undergrowth. Pine abounds in the southern part.



## REFUGIO COUNTY.

*Boundaries.*—This county is bounded north by the county of Goliad, east by the Gaudalupe and the Gulf, south by the Nueces, and west by the upper line of Power's grant.

This county is entitled to one representative,

and is comprised in the senatorial district with Goliad and San Patricio. It forms part of the fourth judicial district.

*Surface.*—The surface is generally level. The land gradually ascends from the coast. Most of the county is open prairie, beautifully interspersed with small insulated groves. The San Antonio and Gaudalupe are fringed with broad, dense forests.

*Soil and productions.*—The soil is generally excellent, consisting of a deep, rich, black mould, resting upon a bed of sandy loam. Most of it is admirably adapted to the cultivation of cotton and sugar. In the north-western part, there are a few sandy ridges, supporting a thin growth of post oak and black jack. This portion of the county is better adapted to grazing than tillage.

*Streams.*—The principal streams are the Gaudalupe and San Antonio. Neither of them are now navigable, as immense rafts of driftwood entirely block up their mouths. Some of the rafts of the former stream are four or five miles long. The Refugio, Aransas, and Chiltipin, are small streams, navigable about fifteen miles for boats drawing three feet water.

*Forest trees.*—In the southern part are extensive forests of live oak and musquit; in the northern part are found pecan, white oak, post oak, elm, hackberry and mulberry.

*Game.*—The Aransas bay and the neighbouring prairies are the winter resorts of innumerable flocks of wild geese, brants, wild ducks, and

plover. Drove of wild horses, (mustang,) and large herds of deer, are found in almost every prairie, also a species of hare, remarkably large. Turkeys, and a species of grouse, abound in the forests.

*Towns.*—Refugio, the county seat, beautifully situated on the east bank of the stream of the same name, was formerly one of the most flourishing towns of western Texas. The inhabitants carried on a very extensive and lucrative trade with the Mexicans of Chihuahua, Coahuila, and Tamaulipas. It is now in ruins, having been almost entirely destroyed during the battle of "The Mission."

A settlement has been commenced at Live Oak Point, on the south side of Aransas bay. This point promises to become the site of a new city, which will rival the first cities of the republic in commercial resources. The harbour at this place is excellent. Vessels drawing eight feet water may approach within sixty yards of the shore at all seasons.

Few counties of Texas have suffered more from the ravages of war than this. It was for a long time entirely depopulated, and nearly half of its former inhabitants have fallen victims to the cruelty of the invader.

## ROBERTSON COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded north by unexplored territory, east by the Trinity river, south by Washington and Montgomery counties, and west by Milam county. It was created by an act of congress, approved December 14th, 1837, which defines its boundaries as follows, viz: "Beginning on the Brazos river, at the county line of the county of Washington, and running on that line easterly to the Trinity river; thence up that river to the northern edge of the cross timbers; thence due west to the Brazos river; thence down that river to the beginning point."

This county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Milam. It forms part of the third judicial district.

*Surface.*—The eastern portion of the county bordering the Trinity, is hilly, but the hills are not steep or precipitous, and rise with a gentle ascent from the valleys. They are of a mammillary form, and their tops are generally beautifully rounded and smooth. The country is also somewhat hilly near the sources of the Navisoto. The remainder of the county is gently undulating. Dense forests extend along the Trinity, and between the Brazos and Little Brazos; but most of the county consists of prairies diversified with numerous post oak groves.

*Soil.*—The soil between the Brazos and Little Brazos is astonishingly fertile, and yields crops

of corn, cotton and potatoes, unexcelled by those of any other section of the republic. The soil on the Navisoto is also exceedingly rich, consisting of a deep ferruginous loam, intermixed with calcarious substances, which add greatly to its fertility. There are a few sandy ridges in the southern part between the Navisoto and Trinity. Most of the county, however, is very fertile, and considered by many as the best portion of Texas.

*Weed prairies.*—In the bottoms of the Brazos of this county, and in the adjoining county of Milam, are many prairies which are covered with a dense growth of weeds, instead of grass: from this fact, they are styled weed prairies. The soil of these prairies is extremely fertile, and is so light and friable that after the weeds have been burned off, a person may easily plant it merely by kicking it open with the shoe. The settlers prize these prairies very highly on account of the fertility of the soil and the facility of clearing them. They merely burn off the weeds, and then with a light hoe plant the maize, without ploughing. The corn thus planted requires but one hoeing, and generally yields from forty to fifty bushels to the acre. Probably with proper tillage, this soil would yield eighty or a hundred bushels to the acre. Some of these prairies contain many thousand acres. The weeds which cover them, chiefly belong to a species of Indian hemp or flax. Possibly at some future

day, it may be found worthy of cultivation, like the common flax or hemp.

*Streams.*—The Brazos, Trinity, Navasoto, and Little Brazos, are the principal streams.

The Navasoto is a beautiful stream of pure and wholesome water. Its current is not rapid, and it is rarely subject to inundation. It is navigable for keel boats about forty or fifty miles from its mouth.

The Little Brazos rises a few miles east of the great falls of the Brazos, and runs nearly parallel with that river about seventy miles at the distance of only five or six miles. It is a small, sluggish stream.

*Minerals.*—The rocks belong wholly to the secondary formations. Extensive quarries of limestone and sandstone are found in many places. Salt springs are also found. In the banks of the Brazos and Little Brazos, are immense beds of coal or lignite: these beds on the Little Brazos are represented to be four or five feet thick. Iron ore is found in immense quantities.

*Towns.*—Franklin, situated on the Navasoto, is the only town of note; it contains only about thirty houses. It is surrounded by many excellent farms. Most of the settlements of this county are between the Brazos and Navasoto. The population is now rapidly increasing. Owing to its frontier position, this county has until recently been almost depopulated.

*Cross timbers.*—The cross timbers mentioned

in the act defining the boundaries of this county, are often referred to in the public journals of the country, and by travellers, as one of the principal landmarks of the country; yet almost every individual who has traversed this section, differs in his description. Some represent them as a long, narrow belt of woods, extending across the country from the Red river to the Rio Grande; others represent them as a belt of woods, about ten or twenty miles wide, extending from the Red river to the Brazos; others, as a belt of woods varying from ten to fifty miles in width, extending from the wooded region at the sources of the Trinity, almost due north to the Arkansas. The latter is probably the true definition. The country overshadowed by the Cross Timbers abounds in game, being frequented by immense herds of buffalo, deer, and wild horses. These woods also afford vast quantities of wild honey. This region is watered by thousands of small rivulets of pure and wholesome water.



### SABINE COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded north by Shelby county, east by the Sabine river, south by Jasper county, and west by San Augustine county. The following are the boundaries as defined by an act passed at the last session of congress:

“All the territory lying west of the Sabine river, south of Shelby, east of San Augustine county, and north of Jasper county, and not included in any other county, shall constitute and compose the county of Sabine.”

This county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Shelby and Harrison counties. It forms a part of the sixth judicial district.

*Surface.*—This county closely resembles the adjoining county of San Augustine. The whole surface is gently undulating, and generally supports a heavy growth of timber. There are two or three small prairies in the western part.

*Soil.*—The soil of the western portion is similar to the Redlands, and is of an excellent quality. That of the remainder of the county is generally light and sandy. There are, however, many extensive tracts of good land in the south-western part, near the Sabine and on the Palogatsho creek.

*Streams.*—The Sabine is navigable throughout the whole course of the eastern boundary. It is generally one hundred yards wide and six or eight feet deep; its water is quite limpid and wholesome. The remaining streams, of which the Palagatcho is the principal, are quite small; their water is generally wholesome and agreeable.

*Forest trees.*—Dogwood abounds in the western part, pine in the middle, and beach in the eastern portion. There are also large quantities of hickory, ash, elm, and cottonwood. This county contains but few inhabitants; the popu-

lation, however, is rapidly increasing, and hamlets are springing up in every direction.



### SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY.

*Boundaries.*—This county is bounded on the north by the county of Shelby, on the east by the county of Sabine, on the south by the county of Jasper, and on the west by the county of Nacogdoches. Its greatest length from north to south is about forty miles; its average width is about twenty-five miles.

This county is entitled to two representatives and one senator. It forms a part of the fifth judicial district.

*Surface.*—The whole surface is embraced within the elevated undulating region of Texas. Nearly the whole county is woodland.

*Streams.*—The famous Ayish bayou is the principal stream of this county, running nearly through its centre from north to south, emptying into the Attoyac at the south-west corner of the county. The bayou takes its name from a small tribe of Indians, who some fifty years ago lived upon its banks. The Attoyac is a small river, forming the western boundary of the county; it is about eighty miles in length, and empties into the Angeline river; it is navigable for small

boats. The Big Sandy is another considerable bayou, running in a south-westerly direction across the north end of the county, and empties into the Attoyac; making, like the Ayish bayou, one of the best streams for water power in the country; both of them being supplied by the best springs, are never-failing streams.

*Soil and productions.*—Nearly the whole county is a part of the "Redlands," the soil of which is exceedingly productive and lasting, yielding in abundance, cotton, corn, rye, oats, potatoes, and most culinary vegetables. There are a few sandy ridges in the south-eastern part, supporting a thin growth of pine. There are a few small prairies scattered in different parts of the county; the soil of these is invariably a rich black mould.

*Towns.*—San Augustine, the county seat, is pleasantly situated on the Ayish bayou, near its source, and is the most flourishing and populous town in eastern Texas. It was laid off in the woods in August, 1833, and has since improved with great rapidity. It contains many neat and elegant buildings. There is a weekly newspaper published at this place. The population amounts to about twelve hundred. As it is situated at a distance from navigable waters, and possesses few commercial advantages, it will not probably continue to improve as rapidly as it has heretofore.

*Climate.*—The climate is mild and remarkably healthy. The temperature of summer seldom

exceeds 94 degrees Fahrenheit, and of winter seldom falls below the freezing point. Snow is seldom seen.

*Minerals.*—The minerals are numerous. Iron ore is found in immense beds; lead is found in small quantities. Also limestone of an excellent quality, and beds of millstone grit. There are several valuable mineral springs near San Augustine.



### SAN PATRICIO COUNTY.

THE boundaries of this county are yet undefined. This description will be limited to that portion of Texas lying south of Bexar county, and west of Refugio and Goliad, bounded as follows, viz: north by Bexar county, east by Refugio county and a part of Goliad county, south by the Gulf of Mexico, and west by the Rio Grande. It is about a hundred and thirty miles long and seventy or eighty broad. The western portion was formerly a part of Tamaulipas.

This county is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Goliad and Refugio. It forms a part of the fourth judicial district.

*Surface.*—The southern portion is level. The middle and northern parts are broken by undu-

lated ridges of a moderate elevation. The streams are fringed with narrow belts of woodland, except near the coast, where the whole country is entirely destitute of trees. The remainder of the county is a vast prairie, diversified by a few insulated groves of mesquit, post oak, and a tall shrub called wisatchy.

*Soil and productions.*—The soil near the Nueces, the Sel Colorado, and Rio Grande, at a distance from the coast, is excellent, consisting generally of a rich alluvial deposit of reddish loam or a deep black sandy mould, intermixed with dark coloured sand. The remainder of the county is sandy and poor. It is, however, far from being a desert, as has been generally represented by writers. Most of it supports a dense mat of grass, and is admirably adapted for pasturage.

*Streams.*—The principal streams are the Rio Grande, Neucas, Sel Colorado, Ulmos San Fernando, Pintas, and Ague Dulce. The Rio Grande hardly deserves the name it bears, as when compared with the principal rivers of America, it cannot be considered a *great* river. The portion of it forming the western boundary of this county, is generally only about 200 yards wide, and so shallow in many places that vessels drawing five or six feet of water cannot ascend more than about a hundred miles, in ordinary stages of the stream. Its current is exceedingly rapid. It is navigable at all seasons, for steamboats drawing three or four feet of water, as far as Camargo, about 200 miles from its mouth.

In the summer of 1829, Capt. Austin ascended it in a small steamboat nearly to Revilla, about 300 miles from its mouth. He found the navigation above Camargo exceedingly difficult and dangerous. In many instances the rapidity of the current completely overpowered the action of the steam engine, and he was compelled to use tow lines in order to make any progress. The bed of this river below Revilla is chiefly quicksand, which is constantly swept from place to place by the current, forming innumerable changing sand bars. Its banks are generally quite steep. They are often undermined in such manner during the annual freshets, that whole acres are at times suddenly precipitated into the stream, and not unfrequently the river opens to itself a new channel through the country to the distance of several miles. In many places these new channels have been cut through banks thirty or forty feet high. The Rio Grande, like the Brazos, by opening abruptly into the Gulf of Mexico, constitutes a singular exception to the ordinary harmony of nature as mentioned by St. Pierre, who has wisely remarked that nature has "contrived deep bays sheltered from the general currents of the ocean, that during stormy weather the rivers might discharge themselves into them in security, and that the finny legions might resort thither for refuge at all seasons." By reference to the map, however, the intelligent naturalist will readily decide that both of these rivers have been accidentally turned away from the natural

outlets; and appearances near their mouth evidently indicate, that the former has at some distant period poured its waters into the bay of Brazos Santiago, the latter into the west bay of Galveston.

The Nueces in this county is generally about 70 yards wide, and three or four feet deep. It is navigable for small boats about 100 miles from its mouth. Its navigation is greatly obstructed by sand bars. The other streams are quite small; the water of several of them is brackish.

*Lakes.*—There are many small lakes or ponds situated nearly midway between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, and about fifty miles from the coast; the water of many of them is salt. The famous salt lake is situated about thirty miles east of the Rio Grande, and seventy miles from San Patricio. This lake, or rather pond, is about three miles in circumference, and of an oval figure. Its waters generally evaporate during the summer, leaving its bed completely covered by a crust of salt, four or five inches thick. Immense quantities of this salt are annually collected by the Mexicans of the neighbouring states. During the dry season it is collected by breaking the crust into large cakes, and in the wet season the cubical crystals are raked together from the bottom into baskets, and in this manner taken away. The lake is surrounded by sandy undulated ridges, covered with low bushes of wisatchy. There is a small lake of excellent fresh water

only a quarter of a mile from it towards the mouth.

*Towns.*—San Patricio, situated in a delightful prairie, on the north-east bank of the Nueces, about seven miles above its mouth, was formerly a place of considerable importance, and contained forty or fifty houses. It is now almost entirely deserted.

Lipantitlan, situated on the south-west side of the Nueces, about four miles above San Patricio, in the woody fringe of the river, formerly contained about forty houses, and was reputed one of the most beautiful and healthy villages of Texas.

This county is almost entirely depopulated, the natural consequence of border warfare. It is capable of sustaining a very dense population, and will necessarily be rapidly settled on the return of peace. It is one of the most healthy portions of Texas. The climate is generally arid and very mild. There are hardly any marshes throughout its whole extent.



## SHELBY COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded north by Harrison county, east by the Sabine river, south by Sabine and San Augustine counties, and west by Nacog-

doches county. Before the creation of Harrison county, its boundaries were as follows, viz :

“Beginning at the mouth of the small bayou which empties into the Sabine river, just below the town of Hamilton, and running up that bayou to the crossing of the road leading from Hamilton to San Augustine; thence on that road to a point opposite Buckley’s; thence on a direct line including Buckley’s house, to a house lately built by J. Rowe; thence on a direct line to a point right on the road leading from J. M. Bradley’s to San Augustine, one and a half miles distant from said Bradley’s; thence on a direct line to Kerr’s ferry on the Attoyac river; thence up that river to its source, or to the crossing of Trammel’s trail; but if said trail should cross above the head waters of that river, then the said line shall run due west from its head waters to said trail; thence on that trail to the Sabine river; thence up that river to the Cherokee crossing of the same; thence on the road leading to Jonesboro to the Big Cypress bayou; thence down that bayou to Lake Soda; thence east to the boundary line between this Republic and the United States of the north; thence along said line south to the Sabine river; thence down the said river to the beginning point.”

This county is entitled to two representatives, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Sabine and Harrison. It forms a part of the sixth judicial district.

*Surface.*—The southern portion is generally

undulated. The northern and middle portions are diversified by hills of a moderate elevation. There are a few small prairies in the western part; the remainder of the county is woodland.

*Soil.*—There is a great diversity of soils in this county. The northern portion contains extensive hickory uplands of an excellent quality. The middle portion is disfigured by many poor sandy ridges, supporting a thin growth of pines. The southern part is crossed by alternate ridges of a soil resembling the Redlands and a soil of a grey colour, resting upon a bed of dark red clay; both of these are remarkably rich and productive, and considered equally valuable. The soil of the prairies and that of the broad plain of the Tanaha, consist of a deep, rich, black loam.

*Streams.*—The Sabine, the Cypress and Tanaha, are the principal streams; the latter flows through an extensive level plain and frequently overflows its banks.

*Forest trees.*—Dogwood, pine, hickory, ash, elm, and beach, predominates in the southern part; pine in the middle and northern portions.

*Towns.*—Shelbyville, the principal town, is situated near the southern bank of the Tanaha, on an elevated and fertile plain. It contains about thirty houses, and is rapidly increasing. Hamilton, near the southern boundary, is yet a mere hamlet.

## TRAVIS COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded north by unexplored territory, east by Milam county, south by Bastrop county, and west by Bexar county. It was created from a part of Bastrop county, by an act of congress, approved January, 1840. It is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Bastrop, Gonzales and Fayette. It forms a part of the third judicial district.

*Surface.*—This county is hilly in the northern portion; the remainder of the county is undulating, with the exception of the portions adjoining the streams, where deep ravines and broad valleys extend, and apparently indicate, that the whole section was once undulating, and has been furrowed and worn down into its present features by the action of running waters. Nearly all the streams at their sources flow through deep chasms or narrow ravines, which gradually widen towards the Colorado, and open into broad valleys with level alluvial bottoms. These valleys are invariably skirted by abrupt ledges of rock, which jut out from the adjoining hills, forming in some places precipices one or two hundred feet high; generally, however, they are only a few feet high. The valley of the Colorado above Austin is quite narrow and broken by ledges; below this city it suddenly opens and displays many broad plains that resemble the rich prairies of

the level country. The hills of the northern part are mostly covered with woods, and the streams are skirted with narrow forests; the remainder of the county is prairie, interspersed with small islets of timber.

*Soil.*—The soil of the northern portions of the county is remarkably sterile, except along the streams and on the level summits of the hills. In the middle and southern portions are some of the best lands of the republic, especially the alluvial bottoms of the Colorado. These alluvial tracts are chiefly composed of light sandy loam, the detritus of the limestone and other secondary rocks, and are very fertile. The soil of the prairies is generally a deep black mould, resting upon sandy loam. There is one remarkable feature in the soil of this county. In many places it is comparatively hidden by a mantle of pebble stones, varying in size from mere grains to that of ordinary paving stones. These stones are all siliceous, and where they are numerous, render the soil quite sterile. They are scattered so irregularly over the surface that the soil of a small fraction of the same acre may be remarkably fertile, and the remainder exceedingly sterile. The summits of the hills are generally level, and are covered with a rich black mould, which is very productive. On these hills none of the pebbles are found. This county produces excellent crops of corn, cotton, rye, oats, and various culinary vegetables. It is believed that wheat

and apples, pears and other fruits, may be raised here to great advantage.

*Streams.*—The Colorado is the principal stream. It is, through this county, generally from one to two hundred yards wide, and flows with a very rapid current. About three miles above Austin a rocky ledge extends entirely across the stream and obstructs the navigation. The river has worn in this ledge many deep, narrow channels, through which the water rushes with the velocity of a "mill race." The waters of the Colorado are generally quite limpid and pure; but when swollen by heavy rains they sweep down immense volumes of red mud, sand and siliceous pebbles.

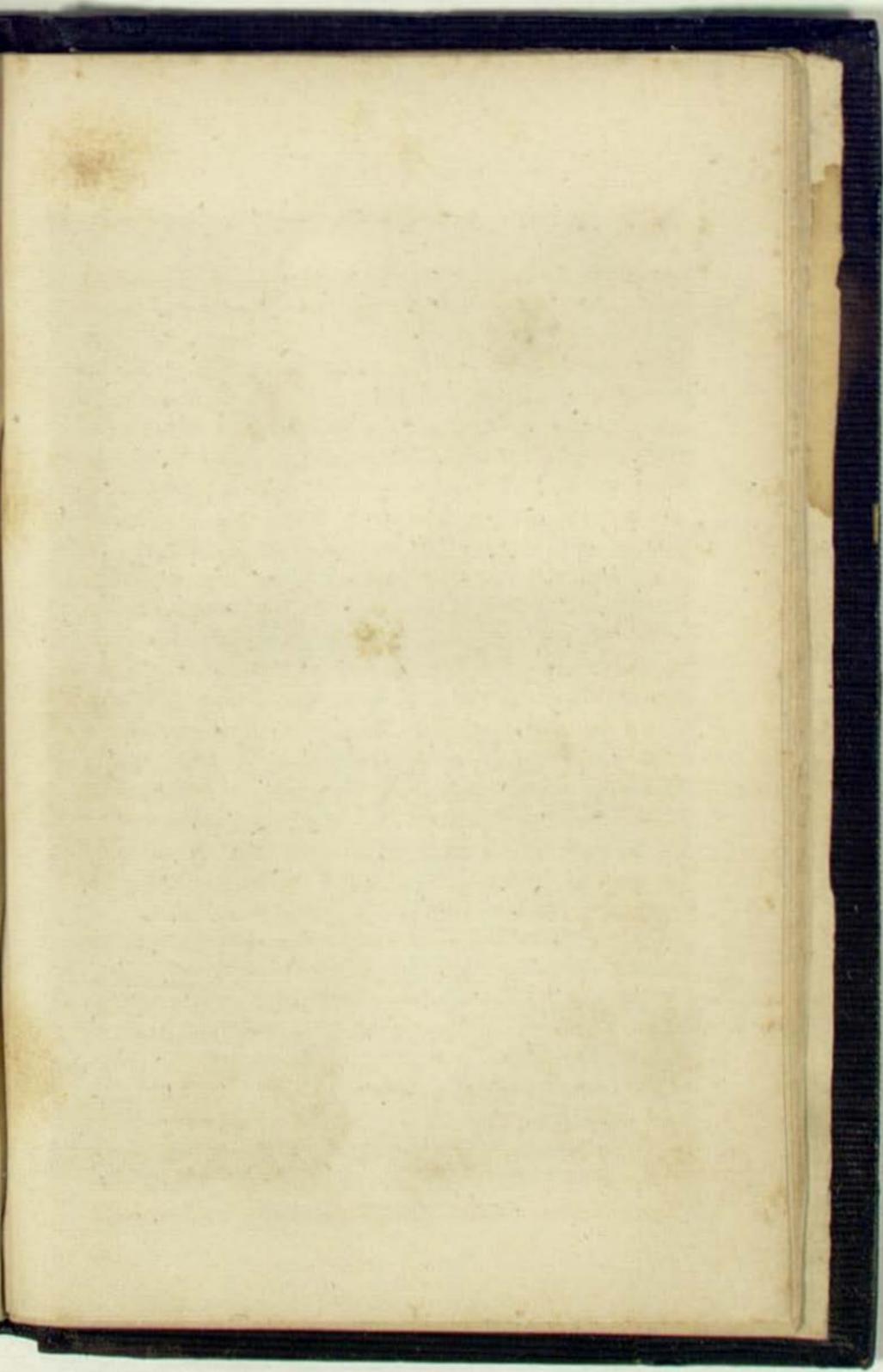
The Piedinales is nearly as large as the Colorado at their junction, which is about twenty-five miles above the city of Austin. It flows into the Colorado from the west, and is about seventy miles long. It is formed by innumerable small springs of pure transparent water, and is generally so clear that small pebbles may be readily distinguished at the depth of thirty feet. It has a gentle current, and winds through one of the most fertile and beautiful valleys of Texas.

Spring creek, Union creek, Bull creek, and Aqua Frio, are small streams that enter the Colorado from the west; and Waller's creek, Shoal creek, Hamilton's creek, and Cypress creek, enter it from the east. These streams are all small, and are formed by large springs which gush out from the limestone strata in the neigh-

bouring hills. Some of these streams afford many excellent mill sites. On the Aqua Frio is a cascade about twenty feet high. Burton's springs, near Austin, are worthy of notice. The water here gushes out from the limestone rocks in a stream sixty feet wide and four deep, and runs with an exceedingly rapid current to the Colorado, about half a mile distant. A mill will be soon erected on this stream. The water of all these streams is remarkably cool and refreshing during the summer months, and the springs preserve a nearly uniform temperature throughout the year.

*Forest trees.*—In the northern part, cedar and post oak predominate. Small groves of live oak are scattered through the county, chiefly along the streams and over the undulating portions. Walnut, white oak, elm, ash, pecan, hackberry, and cottonwood abound. A few pine trees are found in the southern part. Red cedar is found in great abundance along the streams in the northern part, and a species of white cedar is found in abundance on the hills in the northern part of the county.

*Minerals.*—The rocks of this county belong chiefly to the secondary formation, and are arranged in nearly horizontal strata. They consist chiefly of limestone and sandstone. The limestone is found forming the summits of the highest hills and jutting out from their feet along the sides of the valleys. Sandstone is found in large blocks, many of which are perforated with





holes, and are scattered over the surface of the hills and plains. The sandstones are coarse, and contain organic fossils, belonging chiefly to the genera pecten and ostræa. The limestone vary in density from soft crumbling marls to firm compact rocks, resembling forest marble. Many of these limestones are argillaceous, and enclose fossils belonging to the genera ostræa, pecten, carelium, grey phea, ammonites, and nuatiles. Globules of sulphuret of iron are also found imbedded in them. Both the limestone and sandstone strata afford excellent building materials, and several valuable quarries have already been opened. Agate, chalcedony, quartz, flint, and other siliceous minerals are found in abundance, scattered abroad over the surface of the low hills and undulating portions of the county. They afford an interesting subject of inquiry to the geologist.

*Towns.*—AUSTIN, the capitol of Texas, and the county seat of this county, is situated on the east bank of the Colorado river, about 200 miles above its mouth, and about one hundred and sixty miles from Houston, in a north-westerly direction. This place, in June, 1839, contained only three or four cabins, and now contains about two hundred houses, some of which are quite well built and comfortable. The president's house is the best building in the place; it is two stories high, has a portico in front and rear; and although, if situated in any one of the larger towns of the United States, would attract little or

no attention, appears almost a palace contrasted with the houses of the frontier hamlets. The capitol is a large one-story building, about one hundred and twenty feet by fifty; contains two rooms, each about fifty by thirty feet, separated by a passage twenty feet wide: one of these rooms is occupied as the senate chamber, the other as the hall of representatives. The buildings occupied by the heads of the several departments, are generally log cabins, fitted up in a neat and commodious style. The population of Austin, at this time, amounts to three or four hundred people. The site of Austin is remarkably beautiful, and the surrounding country presents some of the most picturesque scenery in America. The view from the president's house is exceedingly fine. This building is situated upon an eminence, elevated about two hundred feet above the bed of the Colorado, and commands a prospect extending several miles along the course of that stream: at the foot of this eminence, a grassy plain, interspersed with many beautiful groves of live oak, cedar, and post oak, extends westward to the river, beyond which, a series of hills, some of which are tufted with forests, some with bare grassy summits, and some with forests and sloping grassy lawns, rise, overtopping each other in wild confusion, and form one of the most delightful and picturesque landscapes imaginable. In contemplating this scene, the eye of fancy can scarcely fail to range forward into the future, when flocks and herds

shall enliven these hills and dales, and neat cottages and elegant mansions shall be scattered abroad over the country, combining to form a picture of beauty and loveliness unsurpassed by any portion of America.

*Curiosities.*—An extensive cave has been discovered near the city of Austin. The entrance of this cave is situated in an elevated plain, upon a hill about three miles distant from the city, in a westerly direction, and across the Colorado. This entrance forms an aperture about eight feet long and four or five wide, rendered irregular by projecting angular fragments of rocks, and sinks suddenly like a well to the depth of a few feet. From the bottom of this aperture, two passages extend into the rocks nearly at a right angle. The smallest of these, which is about six feet wide and three or four high, extends towards the north in a horizontal direction, and at the distance of about a hundred feet from the entrance becomes so narrow that a man of ordinary size can with difficulty penetrate farther; here numerous small passages extend obliquely upwards into the rocks. The other and main passage of the cave is about twice as large as the former, extends in an easterly direction, obliquely downwards, about one hundred feet, where it opens into a chamber, about twenty feet wide, thirty feet long and five or six high. Many narrow passages extend beyond this, and probably communicate with other subterranean chambers that have not yet been explored. The walls of

this cavern are limestone. Small stalactites have formed upon them, and in many places unite with stalagmites from the floors, forming small irregular columns. These are generally opaque, and of a dull, dingy white colour. The floor of the cavern is generally covered with a deep bed of dirt, in which are enclosed many bones of bears and other animals. It probably contains large quantities of nitre. The walls of this cave exhibit in every part the action of a current of water, and evince its origin. There are probably in the neighbouring hills many similar caverns, which have been worn in the rocks by subterranean torrents.



## VICTORIA COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Gonzales county, on the east by Jackson county, on the south by the Gulf of Mexico, and on the west by Refugio county. It is entitled to one representative, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Jackson and Matagorda. It forms a part of the fourth judicial district.

*Surface.*—The portion of this county lying within from twenty to thirty miles of the coast, is quite level; the remainder of the county is undulating. The prairies of the undulating por-

tion are generally small and diversified with many islets of timber. The streams in this section are lined with forests, varying from a few rods to a few miles in width. In the level portions, the county is entirely open prairie, and even the streams are not distinguished by bordering forests as in other parts of the country.

*Soil.*—The soil near the coast is generally poor, consisting of light sandy loam, except near the streams, where it generally consists of a rich, black friable mould, resting upon a bed of sandy calcareous loam, and is very productive. The lands near the Gaudalupe and its small tributary streams, are considered equal to any in the republic. The soil of the northern part of the county varies considerably; in some places it is argillaceous and very adhesive; in others, light and sandy. Often in the same field sandy loam predominates in one section, and clay loam in another.

*Streams.*—The Gaudalupe in this county is generally two hundred yards wide and ten or twelve feet deep. Its mouth is obstructed by a small raft of drift wood, a few hundred yards in length. This raft will probably soon be removed, and the river will then be navigable for steamboats to Victoria, about seventy miles from its mouth. A swamp, varying in width from one to two miles, extends from the coast along its eastern bank to within ten or twelve miles of Victoria. This swamp is covered with dense, impenetrable thickets of cane, flags and creeping

plants, and is the retreat of innumerable flocks of wild-fowl.

The Lavacca is navigable about thirty-five miles for boats drawing four feet water. It is a sluggish stream, and its course is generally quite serpentine.

The Garcitas, Arenoso, Union, and Chocolate creeks, are all small, and their waters are generally quite pure and wholesome.

The Coletto empties into the Gaudalupe a few miles below Victoria. It is a beautiful stream of clear and wholesome water, and is distinguished for the remarkable beauty and fertility of its banks.

*Forest trees.*—Post oak, white oak, elm, hackberry, and pecan, are found in abundance in the undulating section. Live oak abounds in the middle portion of the county. Musquit is found in the western part.

*Minerals.*—Limestone of an excellent quality is found in the northern part. It forms when burned, good lime, and is much used as a building material. Sandstone is found in the southern part.

*Towns.*—Victoria, the county seat, is the only village worthy of note in this county. It is pleasantly situated on the east bank of the Gaudalupe, and contains about one hundred and fifty houses. It is one of the most flourishing villages west of the Colorado, and its population is rapidly increasing.

Linville, on the Lavacca, twenty miles from

Victoria, is now attracting some attention, as it is the point to which most of the goods and merchandise are shipped for Victoria and other "settlements" on the Gaudalupe and Lavacca. The custom-house for the district of Lavacca is situated at this place.



## WASHINGTON COUNTY.

THIS county is bounded north by the San Antonio road, east by the Navasoto and Brazos rivers, south by Caney creek, and a portion of Austin and Montgomery counties, west by the dividing ridge between the waters of Cumming's creek of the Colorado, and the waters of New Years and Yegua creeks, of the Brazos.

This county is entitled to two representatives, and is comprised in the senatorial district with Montgomery county. It forms a part of the third judicial district.

*Surface.*—The surface of this county is generally undulating. There are many hills of a moderate elevation, with smoothly rounded summits, situated in different parts of the county. In the north-eastern part are many extensive forests enclosing numerous small prairies. The remainder of the county presents many large prairies, interspersed with groves of timber.

The principal streams are lined with very broad belts of timber.

*Soil.*—The soil of the bottom lands of the streams of this county is of an excellent quality, and resembles most of the soil of the Brazos valley, being a deep rich loam. The soil of the numerous prairies is generally very rich and mellow, assuming different colours; dark, grey, red, and chocolate. Both prairies and bottoms support a thick mat of grass, and are well adapted to grazing.

*Streams.*—The Brazos and Navasoto rivers, and Yegua, New Years, and Caney creeks, are the principal streams. The Brazos is generally about eighty yards wide; but is obstructed by falls or rapids a short distance above the town of Washington; above these falls it is deep, and navigable for boats drawing three feet water throughout the whole extent of the county. The Navasoto is a deep sluggish stream, navigable for small boats thirty miles above its mouth. The other streams are small, have rapid currents, and afford many excellent mill sites. These streams are fed by innumerable springs of sweet and wholesome water.

*Towns.*—Washington, the county seat, is beautifully situated on high post-oak land, on the west bank of the Brazos, immediately opposite the junction of the Navasoto, and a few miles below the mouth of the Yegua. The country around is broken by numerous hills of moderate

elevation, and presents scenery diversified and beautiful.

There is also the town of Independence, with a high, healthy situation in the La Bahia prairie, ten or twelve miles west of Washington.

*Productions.*—Indian corn, cotton, potatoes, rye, and oats, are the principal productions; but it is thought that wheat, sugar cane and indigo, would do well; and all sorts of vegetables, and a great variety of fruits, are known to succeed remarkably well.

*Minerals.*—An extensive bed of excellent coal has been found on the Yegua, about twelve miles from the town of Independence. Iron ore is found in the northern part. Great quantities of "petrified bones" of an immense size, have been found in the bed of the Brazos.



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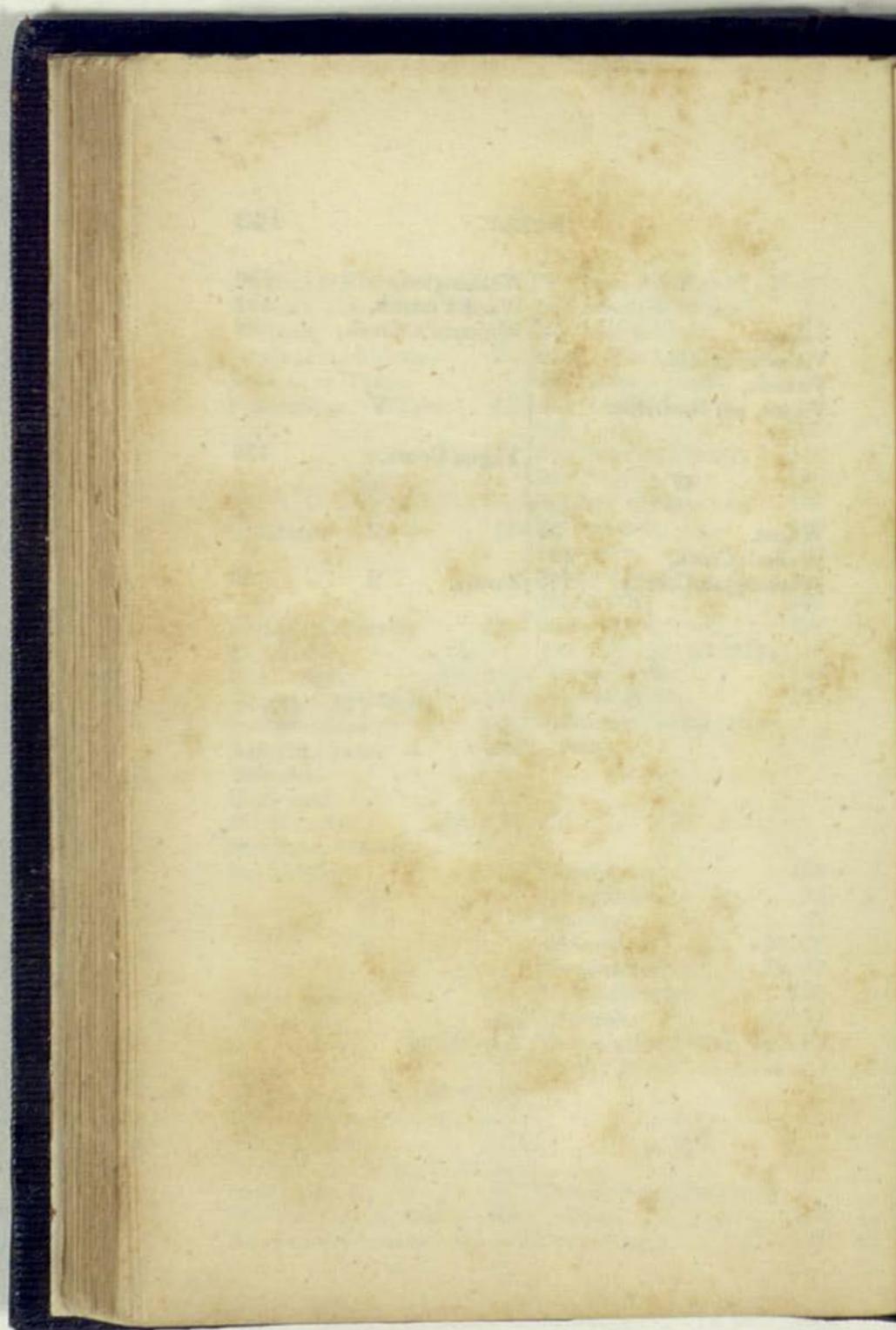
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