

Observations on the River Thames

General observations respecting the River Thames.

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Com. Aug. 13/21.

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Amongst other things I have noticed, it may not be uninteresting to state my sentiments of the River Thames, and of the land on its banks, and in its neighbourhood, as an agricultural Settlement where the Arctee or head chief resides. It is situated about one hundred Miles, or perhaps more from point Rodney, the Entrance of the Thames. I should call Rowpab the Head of the Thames. Here the river divides itself into two branches nearly of equal size. The one runs to the right, and the other to the left. At Rowpab there is sufficient water for small Vessels, that does not draw more than six or seven feet. The Tide runs up a few miles above this Settlement. I went ten or twelve miles up the right hand branch in a Canoe when the water became shallow, and the river opened into an extensive plain. I have little doubt, but this branch of the river has its source in natural Springs which rise in this plain - The left hand branch I traced much further by land; and found that after running thro' deep Glens, craggy Rocks it had its source in natural Springs which rose in a similar plain, that extended to the borders of Mercur Bay. On or near the banks both of the main river and the two Branches which form the River, there are large Forests of Timbers of various kinds, and very lofty, but generally of the Cypress kind. They extend with but little interruption for forty or fifty miles. I also observed several small navigable branches, which run into the interior in passing along the main River. There is every kind of Timber convenient that could be wanted for building Houses, and all Agricultural purposes. The Land in general is very Rich, and would produce the heaviest Crops of Grain, and there are hundreds of Acres on its banks, which might with little trouble be cultivated with the Plough; as the whole is completely free from stones, and a light rich soil. In many places I observed the river in heavy rains overflowed its banks; but the water cannot remain upon the ground any time from the free outlet it has into the Sea, nor did it appear to rise very high. The River is near eight or ten Miles wide, where the fresh water falls into the Salt. I inquired of the