

first we viewed the river, and crossed it several times, admiring its beauties, as well as those of the circumjacent parts. Ascending the higher grounds we had a large prospect of the mountains, as well as of the river below us, which here divided into narrow rocky channels, and formed many little islands.

So soon as we had left the river, the land grew very rugged and hilly, increasing gradually in height all the way. Arriving at the foot of the first steep hill we pursued a bear, but he climbing the rocks with much more agility than we, he took his leave. Proceeding further up, we found by many beaten tracts, and dung of bears, that the mountains were much frequented by them, for the sake of chesnuts, with which at this time these mountains amounted.

The rocks of these mountains seem to engross one half of the surface; they are most of a light gray color; some are of a coarse grained alabaster, others of a metallic luster, some pieces were in form of slate and brittle, others in lumps and hard; some appeared with spangles, others thick, sprinkled with innumerable small shining specks like silver, which frequently appeared in stratum at the roots of trees when blown down.

These different spars appeared most on the highest and steepest parts of the hills, where was little grass and fewest trees, but the greatest part of the soil between the rocks is generally of a dark-colored sandy mold, and shallow, yet fertile, and productive of good corn, which encourages the Tallipooses, a clan of the Cherokee nation of Indians, to settle amongst them, in the latitude of 34, and are the only Indian nation that has a constant residence upon any part of this whole range of mountains.

Certain places in Virginia, towards the heads of rivers, are very much impregnated with a nitrous salt, which attracts for many miles round numerous herds of cattle, for the sake of licking the earth, which at one place is so wore away into a cave, that a church, which stands near it, has attained the indecent name of Licking hole Church.

#### OF THE WATER

The larger rivers in Carolina and Virginia have their sources in the Appalachian mountains, generally springing from rocks, and forming cascades and waterfalls in various manners, which being collected in their course, and uniting into single streams, cause abundance of narrow rapid torrents, which falling into the lower grounds, fill innumerable brooks and rivulets, all which contribute to form and supply the large rivers.

All those rivers which have their sources in the mountains, have cataracts about one-third of the distance from the mountains to the sea. These cataracts consist of infinite numbers of various sized rocks, scattered promiscuously in all parts of the river, so close to one another, and in many places so high, that violent torrents and lofty cascades are continually flowing from between and over them. The extent of these cataracts (or falls, as they are commonly called) is usually four or five miles; nor are the rivers destitute of rocks all the way

between them and the mountains; but between these falls and the sea, the rivers are open, and void of rocks, and consequently are navigable so far, and no further, which necessitates the Indians in their passage from the mountains, to drag their canoes some miles by land, till they get below the cataracts, from which they have an open passage down to the sea, except that the rivers in some places are encumbered by trees carried down and lodged by violent torrents from the mountains.

The coasts of Florida, including Carolina and Virginia, with the sounds, inlets, and lower parts of the rivers, have a muddy and soft bottom.

At low water there appears in the rivers and creeks immense beds of oysters, covering the muddy banks many miles together; in some great rivers extending thirty or forty miles from the sea, they do not lie separate, but are closely joined to one another, and appear as a solid rock a foot and a half or two feet in depth, with their edges upwards.

The rivers springing from the mountains are liable to great inundations, occasioned not only from the numerous channels feeding them from the mountains, but the height and steepness of their banks, and obstructions of the rocks.

When great rains fall on the mountains, these rapid torrents are very sudden and violent; an instance of which may give a general idea of them, and their ill consequences.

In September 1722, at Fort Moore, a little fortress on the Savannah river, about midway between the sea and mountains, the waters rose twenty-nine feet in less than forty hours. This proceeded only from what rain fell on the mountains, they at the fort having had none in that space of time.

It came rushing down the river so suddenly, and with that impetuosity that it not only destroyed all their grain, but swept away and drowned the cattle belonging to the garrison. Islands were formed, and others joined to the land. And in some places the course of the river was turned. A large and fertile tract of low land, lying on the south side of the river, opposite to the fort, which was a former settlement of the Savannah Indians, was covered with sand three feet in depth, and made unfit for cultivation. This sterile land was not carried from the higher grounds, but was washed from the steep banks of the river. Panthers, bears and deer were drowned, and found lodged on the limbs of trees. The smaller animals suffered also in this calamity; even reptiles and insects were dislodged from their holes, and violently hurried away, and mixing with harder substances were beat in pieces, and their fragments (after the waters fell) were seen in many places to cover the ground.

There is no part of the globe where the signs of a deluge more evidently appears than in many parts of the northern continent of America; which, though I could illustrate in many instances, let this one suffice. Mr. Woodward, at his plantation in Virginia, above an hundred miles from the sea, towards the sources of Rappahannock river, in digging a well about seventy feet deep, to find a spring, discovered at that depth a bed of the *Glossopetrae*, one of which was sent me.

All parts of Virginia, at the distance of sixty miles, or more, abound in fossil shells of various kinds, which in stratum lie imbedded a great depth in the earth, in the banks of riv-