

Choctaw Agency 16<sup>th</sup> June 1803

Dear Sir,

I wrote you last from New Orleans on the 26<sup>th</sup> March & detailed in brief my progress & p\_\_\_\_\_ thus far. I \_\_\_\_\_ endeavor without weary you with minutiae to give you the sequel till \_\_\_\_\_ I arrived the Agency house. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of March we took our departure from New Orleans. Having contrary winds we descended slowly, notwithstanding the rapidity of the current & on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April anchored opposite the blockhouse above the Ba\_\_\_\_\_ On the 5<sup>th</sup> April having a clear horizon at north took the meridian altitude of the sun at the south outlet of the Blockhouse Bayou & found it thus —

	66° 34' 30"
Index error additive	2-30
Altitude of lower limb	66-37-00
Difference of paralux & refraction p_____ dip	2-16
Declination north	5-54-47
	5-57-03
Sun's semi diameter	60-39-57
	16-1
Sun's true altitude minus declination	60-55-58
Latitude north	29-04-2"

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1st Sheet

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it thus	66° 34' 30"
Index error additives	2' 30"
Altitude of lower limb	66° 37' 00"
Difference of paralux & refraction	2' 16"
Declination north	5° 54' 47"
	5° 57' 03"
Sun's semi diameter	60° 39' 57"
	16' 01"
Sun's true altitude minus declination	60° 55' 58"
	??
Latitude North	29° 04' 02"

Had more favourable opportunities offered for a series of observations during our stay I should have made them & taken the mean which would have been more accurate.

On the evening of the 6th we crossed the bar & anchored. On the 7th set under way with a light breeze. At \_\_\_\_\_ latitude by my observation was  $29^{\circ} 19' 17''$  north. The afternoon \_\_\_\_\_t calm. On the 8th from \_\_\_\_\_ breeze. At noon I observed the latitude was  $29^{\circ} 53' 59''$  anchored in the evening near land uncertain of an account of the current whether east or west of the Mobile Point. On the 9th early made sail & stood to the westward with a light breeze, landed on an island with our boat, shot some fowls & caught a Turtle. In the evening, running on agreeably to havnt got aground off the east end of Dauphin island \_\_\_\_\_ kings pilot come on board. On the 10th I was much indisposed. On the 12th arrive at Mobile, land & report ourselves to the Commandant. Here is the only regular fortifications which I have seen in

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in the Spanish territories, & the Officers are  
very polite. By information from sundry  
of the Spanish subjects we learn that the house  
of Leslie & Co have of late sold goods at a very  
great discount, some say a hundred percent on  
their last winter price. I am informed the inform  
ants alledge that they intend relinquishing  
the business at this place. It appeared to me  
that if the report of the discount in prices were  
correct it must be occasioned by an intention  
to get their present stock off their hand,  
or that their former advance was enormous  
or that they intend rivaling the public factory  
in its infancy even by a sacrifice of property.  
On the 13<sup>th</sup> set out for fort Stoddart & with variety  
of unimportant incidents arrived at & anchored  
opposite the fort on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Report & deliverances  
letters to Captain Swaine the commanding officer  
who with his Subalterns Lieutenants Schuyler &  
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I applied to the military Agent to furnish transport  
for the Indian goods from fort St Stevens to  
the Choctaws, he informed me that he had  
not the means of transport at his command.  
On the 21<sup>st</sup> set forward for fort St Stevens  
where we arrived \_\_\_\_\_ morning of the \_\_\_\_\_ of May.  
Discharging the cargo, procuring & \_\_\_\_\_ing  
boats, hiring men &c. determined \_\_\_\_\_ the  
7<sup>th</sup> when I was obliged to set out weakly manned,  
part of my crew Indians, & myself as patron  
to one of the boats. On the 20<sup>th</sup> in the evening  
I arrived at the mouth of the Oak Noxaby, having for  
thirteen days stood exposed without shelter <sup>eleven hours & half a day</sup> at the steering  
oar, to all the severity of the sun & climate & lodged  
at night without awning in the open boat.  
I was the next day seized with a violent perversion  
of the ague & fever, which \_\_\_\_\_ returned  
for several days & rendered me very unfit  
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<sup>123</sup> Jones: With the balance of the freight I with  
 tackles effected the ascent of the sh[oa]l & on the  
 24<sup>th</sup> arrived with the boats at Jones' landing, and  
 deposited the goods in his store. I sent for Mr  
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 a part of the goods. He arrived on the evening  
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 of the 30<sup>th</sup> & on the evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> arrived at  
 home, where the effects of my long absence  
 were but too        on the        appearance  
 of the yards, gardens, & fields.        applications  
 were so numerous for the compliments of  
 husbandry that I thought proper to appoint  
 the 9<sup>th</sup> as a day to meet such people of the upper  
 & lower towns as might think proper to  
 to deliver <sup>them</sup> all the hoes & axes, as this was the  
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your communication respecting Vernon to which  
I shall pay due attention. It is however an unfor-  
tunate circumstance that this duty of reprimanding  
their lawlessness should be liable to be retarded on  
account of the murder of the Choctaw at Natchez.  
I am also \_\_\_\_\_ that my duty requires me to  
report to you what \_\_\_\_\_ perhaps already know  
that another \_\_\_\_\_ traveller has been recently wounded  
by a Choctaw. The Chiefs with whom I have  
conversed on the subject detest the acts and  
deprecate the consequences; but know not  
how to redress the wrongs. A general meeting  
of the Nation takes place in 15 days when  
if my health will permit I shall avail myself  
of the opportunity of setting home the enormity  
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Very much seized with lazy, lounging shi \_\_\_ sheriffs?, kings with exceptions of a few who seem to favor industry & improvement. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant I received you communication respecting Vernon to which I shall pay due attention It is however an unfortunate circumstances that this duty of reprimanding their \_\_\_\_\_ should be liable to be retarded on account of the murder of the Choctaw at Natchez. I am also \_\_\_\_\_ that my duty requires me to report to you what you perhaps already know that another traveler has been recently wounded by a Choctaw, the Chiefs with whom I have conversed on the subject detest the acts deprecate the consequences, but know not how to redress the wrongs. A general meeting of the Nations takes place in 15 days when if my health will permit I shall avail myself of the opportunity of setting home the enormity of the acts as forcibly as possibly can.

Your favour of the 26<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ I received yesterday by Col. McThee who has returned. Mr. Forbes I can assure you positively has not been in this nation. He went to the Creeks to attend the council of the four nations, whence he wrote to Mr. Pitchlynn a for late date. I have heard nothing of the Chevallier but will make further enquiries. It is with pleasure I inform you that the noted Bowles was \_\_\_\_\_ council of the four nations at the \_\_\_\_\_ kory grounds & taken off under a strong guard \_\_\_\_\_ be delivered to Governor Folch at Pensacola. The accession is authentic in an official paper from \_\_\_\_\_ Hawkins. This is evidence that the prospects are flattering in the Creek country.

The law appears to be expli\_\_\_\_\_ that property stolen from the Indians by white people must be paid for. It is to give me your opin

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This law appears to be expli\_\_\_\_\_ that property stolen from the Indians by the white people must be paid for, Please to give me your opin

whether payments made for such would be  
allowed in my accounts. I would thank  
you to favour me on this head with a  
prompt answer as I have promised the  
Indians an answer as soon as I can hear  
from you.



I am informed by an anonymous letter from Fort Adams  
probably written by General Wilkinson, that the President has  
authorized a \_\_\_\_\_ offer \_\_\_\_\_ Choctaws to the  
seat of government & \_\_\_\_\_ requested to inform the  
Indians there \_\_\_\_\_ there been a signature to the  
letter, however much I am disposed to respect the  
communications of the General, I should certainly  
have paused in the execution of the request. Visits

of this kind ought to be seldom allowed, & when  
allowed the agent ought to accompany the de-  
putation, And legitimate authority to act in such a case,  
(it would seem) ought to come either from you,  
or the Secretary of War direct.

I am very respectfully,  
His Excellency \_\_\_\_\_  
Governor Claiborne, \_\_\_\_\_  
Silas Dinsmoor

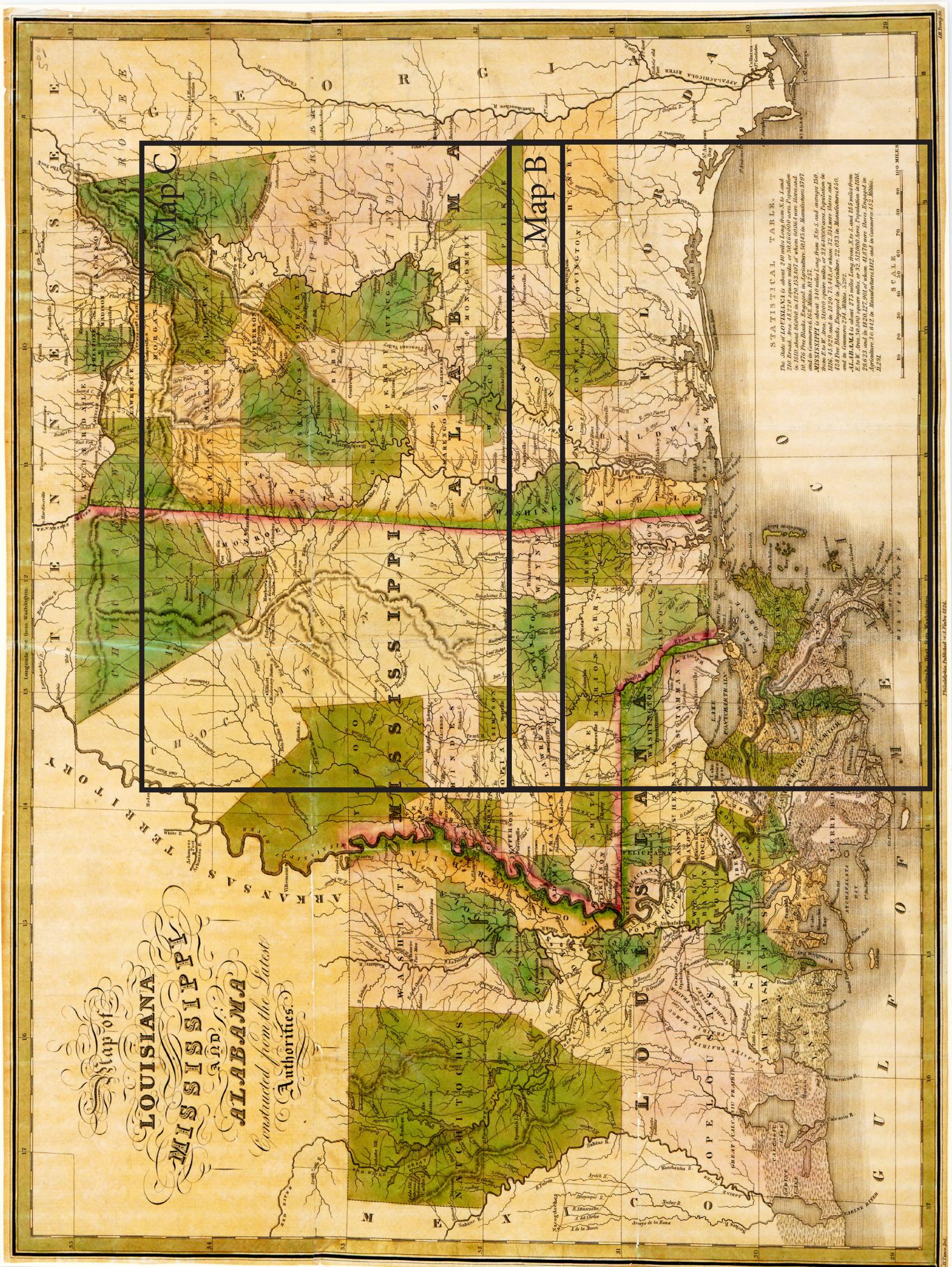
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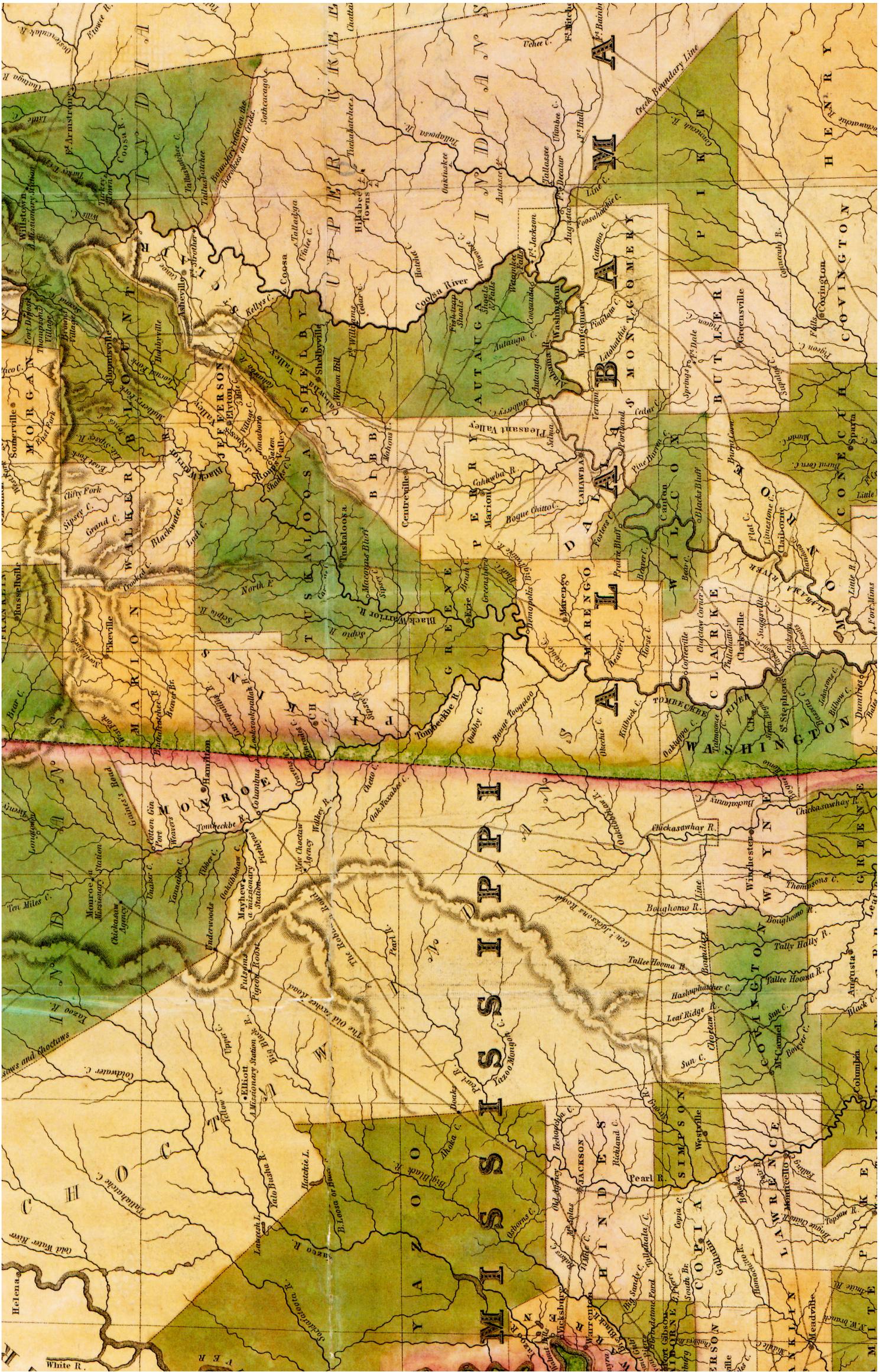
His Excellence  
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Map A



Map B



Map C



Reference Map