

I have from childhood had an inclination for visiting out
of the way countries. Such as any far removed from the very day to day of the
fashionable town. ^{It is in visiting such places, one finds the} I have always fancied that to obtain a just
and correct estimate of the state of a country is enabled to judge correctly of the nature
and disposition of its people.

It was in such a mood in June 1839 as I was sailing
one bright sunny morning upon the Centurion at which I was. That my
eye was attracted by a light ^{hanging on the shore} ~~board~~ of a very interesting
that she was to depart that evening for Galveston in Texas. I had
heard much of this country from an acquaintance who had
made a visit there. This board brought to mind his glowing descrip-
tions of the country. His cheerful and easy manner of living.
The young band of Indians which inhabit that country and his many
interesting adventures among them. ^{I was at the time seeking a description and an insight into} I stepped on board of the vessel
and in a few moments had arranged my passage with the
skipper. I took to my hotel settled my bill had my baggage
carried to the ship. and in the evening was gliding rapidly down
the Mississippi in tow of a steamer. The following morning
we passed the Balize and by 10 o'clock had shipped our
baskets from the steamer and were quietly gliding along in
the water of the Gulf of Mexico. We had a number of passengers
the company on board consisted of about 30 persons.

and as many more storage passengers, among the latter
a family of blacks, slaves, & more noisy congregation.