



May 31, 1805, mile 2450

The water, in the course of time in descending from those hills and plains on either side of the river, has trickled down the soft sand cliffs and worn it into a thousand grotesque figures, which with the help of a little imagination and an oblique view, at a distance are made to represent elegant ranges of lofty freestone buildings, having their parapets well stocked with statuary. Columns of various sculpture, both grooved and plain, are also seen supporting long galleries in front of those buildings

*Lewis, May 31, 1805  
(continued...)*

In other places on a much nearer approach and with the help of less imagination, we see the remains or ruins of elegant buildings. There are some columns standing and almost entire with their pedestals and capitals, others retaining their pedestals but deprived by time or accident of their capitals, some lying prostrate and broken, and others in the form of vast pyramids of conic structure bearing a series of other pyramids on their tops, becoming less as they ascend and finally terminating in a sharp point.

*Lewis, May 31, 1805 (continued...)*

May 31, 1805, mile 2449

