

sions. It will send tobacco into France; and increasing the conveniencies of its mother country and sister colonies, it will increase its own traffic, its inhabitants, and its power."

This description of Louisiana, which is extremely just, I have extracted from more authors than one, and it shows very clearly the immense importance of that vast country. But how will it flourish when it becomes the only object of the regard of the French in North America? When the expence which attended Canada is laid out on this promising settlement, where every thing conspires to render it a most formidable rival to our American power. How easy will it be for the French, in case of a new war to invade our colonies from hence? And when once they have cultivated, and experienced the great advantages resulting from the possession of it, we may be very certain that they will spare no costs in strengthening it, and by keeping up a strong body of troops here, (which they may do for much less expence than in Old France) they will put our plantations to the immense expence of erecting barrier forts for the extent of upwards of a thousand miles, and when a war breaks out, they can at any time invade our southern, and weakest provinces*. Here it may be said, *that we shall at any time be able to repel force by force, and to conquer Louisiana as we have done Canada; a poor and insufficient answer!* The conquest of Canada has actually cost us eighty millions! and so we are to leave Louisiana in the hands of the French, because, in case they encroach, as they always have done, we shall at any time be able to repel them at the small expence of eighty millions!—But can we answer, that the French will be as easily drove out of the latter, as they have been out of the former: the conquest we have already made, baffled all our efforts for years, and at last was won but by a miracle; for all parties now agree that Wolfe's success can be considered in no other light. Will not the French rather take the greatest care to secure themselves with every possible precaution? Can a fleet of British first rate ships of war, sail up to New Orleans, as they did to Quebec; and altho' we might have easily taken it by General Amherst's army being navigated down the Ohio and Mississippi, yet it will not be, ten years hence, so weak as it is now. Quebec was not half so strong as New Orleans might be made at a small expence, for it stands on a dead flat, and surrounded with marshes and lakes.

* "For if we can have no security whilst the French have any place from whence they may invade our colonies, you ought to have carried your demands still further; you ought to have demanded the whole country of Louisiana; because from thence France undoubtedly may invade our colonies, and what is of more consideration, the weakest of our colonies, those to the southward." *Mr. Townshend's Remarks on a letter to two Great Men*, p. 51.