

for individuals, they would add nothing to the national mass, and would have no other effect than to lower the price of colonial produce, and lessen the profits of their labor.

It might however be thought, that the possession of Louisiana would afford one more market to the French manufactures, and thus compensate the expence of the nation for its settlement. This question deserves a particular examination, and the provisioning or the consumption of French manufactures may relate either to the free or bond population.

If it be the free class that is to be mustered by emigrants from France, it will be composed of that portion of the people, which not only could support themselves in France, but, besides, increase the national riches by their industry. For France is not overburthened by her population, and consequently every emigration will form a vacuum some where, or abandon some useful branch which will no longer be carried on. The emigrant carries away with him a portion of the general good, in the mass of the productive labor of the mother country; he also carries away with him a portion of the capital, for he never goes with empty hands, and as I have already observed, ten years must pass away before his settlement produces beyond his first necessaries. He must, at the same time, live with the strictest economy, for having nothing to offer in exchange, he receives scarcely any thing from the mother country, and the nature of the southerly climates requires very few of the articles necessary in Europe. It is, therefore, beyond all doubt, that, as to the present emigrant, the few articles furnished him by French manufactures will not cover the loss which the nation will sustain of his own labor; besides, he will consume much less in America than he would in France, and, besides his labor, the

manufacturer, who supplied his wants in both countries, will be a loser by his emigration.

Black population will still less contribute to the support of French manufactures, because their consumption in articles of dress is very small; and even in South Carolina it does not amount to more than forty livres a year for each negro. At Louisiana, where the winter is still less severe, it will be reduced in proportion; it will consist in cotton, principally worked in the country, and still more smuggled from the United States. But if the whole were brought from France, after deducting the raw materials which must be purchased, the whole profit of the French manufacturer will not amount to more than 80 livres for each negro, every year. Now, as each slave will cost the nation 1000 livres, and as this capital would have produced, in France, at least 10 per cent. in every other commerce or manufacture, the difference between 100 livres French produce, and 80 livres produce of the Louisiana clothing, gives the real loss to be sustained by the French in the first ten years, during which, they can only, as I have said before, supply their first wants, if so much; and as a certain number must die by the change of climate and a number will run away, the real loss of France on every slave imported and employed in Louisiana must be 100 livres every year.

But if we add to this, the profit which this very slave could have furnished if transported to the islands, (and it is certain that all the slaves carried to Louisiana are so many hands taken from the islands,) we shall find that the actual loss of the nation, in the interruption of labor, will amount to upwards of 600 livres per annum; so that the first loss for the nation, in the introduction of 1000 slaves to Louisiana, will be