

VII. All the designs of the French above-mentioned, great as they appear and really are, yet if they ever succeed in any one of those, they may be reckoned only as preludes to much greater things—They are but a few leagues distant from the island of *Cuba*, with a force sufficient to seize it, when they please. And what is there to hinder them to do it? I have been informed, that they have attempted settlement on that island already, at *Cape Mayze*; by which they may soon worm the Spaniards out of *Cuba*, as they have done out of *Hispaniola*. *Cape Mayze* is one of the most important passes in all America, such as *Niagara* is on the continent. This and the other settlements they have opposite to it in *Hispaniola* secure the *windward passage* entirely, the only safe passage we have from the islands: and at the same time leads directly to the *Havana*.

This was one of their great reasons for being so intent upon securing the *Mississipi*, and driving the Spaniards from about it at *Pensacola* in 1719, because they say, “This navigation to *Louisiana*, will further procure us “a free (*or forced*) resort to the two famous “ports of the gulph of Mexico, *viz.* the “*Havana* and *Vera Cruz*.*”——And we

* Second Voyage of La Salle, pag. 188.

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