

had we attended more to their schemes of uniting them by their chain of forts. When once they had rendered this chain strong enough, they would have given their greatest attention to the southern parts *as colonies*. Canada produces nothing that can ever possibly make a colony flourishing; and our being possessed of it, will be of no further consequence to us, than adding to the security of our *northern* colonies, and gaining about one hundred and forty thousand pounds worth of furs, annually. The uncultivated lands of our own plantations, are far more fertile than the barren wastes of Canada. But how different a country is Louisiana! capable of bearing almost any thing from the temper of the sky, the goodness of the soil, and from the multitude of long, deep, and beautiful rivers, with which it is every where enriched and adorned; these are most of them navigable for hundreds of miles into the country. They are principally the Mississippi, whose head is unknown, but it almost goes quite through North America, and at certain seasons overflows its banks for a vast way on both sides the Ouabache, almost equal to the Danube; the great rivers Alabama, Mobile, and several others. The face of the country is almost wholly plain covered with stately woods, or spread into very fine meadows. In short Louisiana, particularly the northern part, (for the mouth of the Mississippi is barren) without any of those heightenings which it received, when it was made the instrument to captivate so many to their ruin, is in all respects a most desirable place*. The French settled here raise some indigo, a good deal of cotton, some corn and rice, with lumber for their islands; but the colony is not very vigorous on account of the shoals and sands, with which the mouth of the Mississippi is in a manner choaked up, and which denies access to any very large ships; the French have according to their usual cautions and wise custom, erected several forts in the most material places, and fortified New Orleans their capital, and indeed the only city in Louisiana, in a regular manner. This city is not remarkably fair, large, or rich: but it is laid out regularly in a fine situation, on the banks of the Mississippi, in prospect of an higher fortune. The whole colony is said not to contain above ten thousand souls whites and negroes †, yet with all its disadvantages this colony is not declining, and if ever they should make the mouth of the Mississippi more tractable (and what is impossible to ambition and industry?) Louisiana will in a few years wear quite another face. It will supply their West-Indies with boards, staves, horses, mules, and provi-

persevere: Canada itself is not worth their asking, and if they do desire to have it restored to them, it can only be with a view to repeat the same injuries and infidelities, to punish which, we engaged in the present war." *Earl of Bath's Letter to two Great Men*, p. 30.

* See the account of the European settlements in America.

† Other accounts make them fifteen thousand.