

cause of this is, that the supplying of lumber, the mills necessary to prepare them for sale, all these are the work of free hands, which are satisfied with a moderate price.

I shall presume further to lay down, however paradoxical it may seem, that it is not advantageous for France to supply herself with lumber, even if she could procure it from Louisiana, I have two reasons to offer;—What lumber the Northern States supply her colonies with is paid for in molasses and some rum. The first article costs the planter nothing, for, were it not for that, this would be a useless production of his sugar, and the second is but a very moderate expence for distillation. If it were not consumed in America, molasses would be thrown away as useless, and this was the case when America was a British colony, because French commerce does not offer any other market for that commodity.

It may, therefore, be said that the colonies have from the United States, *lumber for nothing*. Should, on the contrary, a settlement be formed in Louisiana for the supplying of that article, every expence and outset of this establishment, all the labour necessary to cut, saw and transport it to be sold, would be a real loss for the nation, even admitting that the cutters and other men employed, should take as payment, molasses and rum; because their labour would produce nothing to the nation.

But it is certain that Louisiana could not furnish a market for molasses or rum. It is only in New-England (Northern States,) that those articles are consumed. The inhabitants of the South prefer ardent spirits, distilled from grain, apples and peaches, to those distilled from molasses.

On the supposition, therefore that the planters supply themselves with lumber in a French colony, exclusive-

ly at Louisiana, they would be forced to pay for it in money or objects of real value. If the right of supply is not exclusive, it is null, because the labourer of a southern climate cannot work as cheap as the robust son of the North.

It might be thought that molasses would still find a market in New-England, tho' it were no longer the price of lumber: it would be an error. They have no other reason to take it, than its being offered them in exchange for an article for which they have few other markets. Let the colonies refuse lumber, from the North, spirits from grain, apples, &c. will immediately be substituted to those from sugar, because the price of rum would immediately be higher. Then it will be that every sort of commerce between them and the colonies will cease, unless it be for provisions, which they will necessarily require to be paid for in money, or in what will pass in foreign markets, for money.

The second reason why France ought not to get her lumber from Louisiana, even tho' she might do it, is, that, in case of war, supposing England should preserve her naval superiority, no sure calculations could be made upon receiving provisions; and they could not be supplied from the United States, for that commerce, having been abandoned since the peace, those whom it then employed have sought other objects of industry; and saw-mills erected to prepare that lumber, are out of use, and will not easily be set up, again, at the renewal of hostilities; so that the misfortunes which are the consequence of it would be doubly distressing to the colonies.

It is, therefore very evident the colonizing of Louisiana would be, in a commercial point of view, injurious to France, because it would employ capitals which would be more usefully employed in the other colonies; because those capitals would lie dormant for several years, and because admitting they should become productive for