

the month of October, 1759, has reduced the province of Louisiana to the most deplorable situation. We shall not undertake to enter into a detail of the calamities, of the ruined fortunes, of the downfall of families, which were the fatal consequences of that catastrophe ; the court has before its eyes a more striking picture of those than it is possible for us to paint, every time it assembles to take cognizance of the unhappy victims of this event. Recovered from the dejection into which they had been plunged, the citizens of Louisiana at last began to take heart. They had considered the conclusion of the war as the end of their misfortunes, and entertained hopes that the return of peace would be the moment destined for their relief. Agriculture, said the inhabitants, that real wealth of a nation, that prolific source from whence flow all the blessings which we enjoy, will now be revived, and will restore a hundred fold during the peace, the losses which we underwent during the war ; commerce, without which the fruits of the earth have neither worth nor value, will be revived and encouraged, (said the merchant) pleasing illusions ! flattering projects ! what is now become of you ! The farmer, the dealer, all ranks and classes in the colony, undergo, in the most profound peace, misfortunes and calamities which they never felt during a long and bloody war. The first stroke by which the colony was afflicted, was the information it received of the cession made of it by his majesty to Spain : nobody, doubtless, will be surprised at the profound melancholy which this news excited in all hearts. The French love their monarch above all things, and a happy prejudice makes all men naturally incline to the government under which they are born. Let us cast a veil over this event, the pen drops from the hand of a Frenchman when he attempts to dive into it : what at present seriously occupies and should engross the whole attention of the court, is the apprehension of that slavery with which a new administration threatens the colonies of Louisiana. At one time we behold an exclusive company, which, to the prejudice of the nation, is empowered to carry on all the commerce of the remain-