

whose interest it is to conceal its most minute advantages; and that so much, that it has occasioned it to be called, in derision, the Frenchman's paradise.

With regard to the number of inhabitants, that is easily accounted for, and is so plain, that one would think men of sense could not make their objections upon so weak a consideration. It is a prudential maxim among politic nations, and the present general method of establishing colonies, not to extend their settlements, before they have secured a quiet possession. If we consider then, that the French have partly met with the same difficulties, from the Cherokees, Chickasaws, and Creek Indians, as the Canadians did from the Five Nations, we shall rather admire at the progress

“ sons who spoke in this manner, and to discover the motives which made them do so.

“ The second are wretches, who being banished from France, for their crimes, or ill behaviour, true or supposed, or who, in order to shun the pursuit of their creditors, listed themselves among the troops, or hired themselves to the plantations. Both of them looked upon this country as a place of banishment only, and were consequently shocked with every thing: they have no tie to bind them, nor any concern for the progress of a colony of which they are involuntary members, and give themselves very little trouble about the advantages it is capable of procuring to the state.

“ The third are such, who having seen nothing but misery in a country, for which excessive sums have been disbursed, impute to it, without reflection, what ought solely to be laid to the incapacity or negligence of those who were charged with the settling it. They are besides not unacquainted with the reasons for publishing that Louisiana contained in its bosom immense treasures, and thought its value to us was very near equal to the famous mines of St. Barbe, and others still richer, from which we flattered ourselves we should be able to drive the possessors with ease; and because these ridiculous tales found credit with fools, instead of imputing the mistake to themselves, into which their foolish credulity had engaged them: they discharged their ill-humour upon this country, in which they found no one article that had been promised them.”

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