

a perfect understanding with the United States, she will find markets for a very great variety of articles, when she has accustomed the inhabitants of the Western countries to prefer them to the English, which she can only obtain by selling them cheaper, and she can only sell them cheaper, by interesting the American merchants to sell them, to have the use of their capitals, and by engaging the government of the United States to give them the preference. All this can take place only by the cession of New-Orleans to the United States, *with the reserve of the right of entry, at all times free from all other duties than those paid by American vessels, together with the right of navigation on the Mississippi.** This would give her vessels an advantage over the vessels of all other nations, will retain and even increase the capitals of New-Orleans, where the provisions for the islands will be bought at the cheapest rate possible, and where the articles of her manufactures will be introduced in the Western countries: The United States will have no interest in preventing it for every reason of rivalry will be removed. Then France will

command respect without inspiring fear to the two nations whose friendship is the most important for her commerce, and the preservation of her islands; and all these advantages will be obtained without the expense of establishments which ruin the public treasure, and divert capitals from their true object.

But if, on the one side, France keeps New-Orleans, by attempting to colonize Louisiana, she will become an object of jealousy to Spain, the United States and England, which powers will not only discourage her commerce, but will compel her to make expensive establishments to secure the possession of it.

In the foregoing observations, I have confined myself to observations which presented themselves, without having recourse to subtleties, which only serve to mislead the judgment. I have exposed simple facts, with candor and all the simplicity of language. If a reply is made, it will be by pursuing a contrary course. With eloquence and sophistry, they may be combated and obscured; time and experience will demonstrate their solidity.

* It is probable this is a condition of the cession.

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J. N.