

more fertile, and the climate infinitely more mild. The French would have many advantages there to render a settlement not only agreeable, but desirable, and they would have an extent of habitable country to secure them against apprehensions of a conquest by an enemy. We know the reason the French could not support themselves in Canada was a want of proper stores and forces which could not be conveyed to them, by any other channel than the river St. Laurence; and that was blocked up by our numerous fleets. But will they be liable to this inconvenience in Louisiana? might they not land their stores and reinforcements in many places in the gulph of Mexico, in a tract of several hundred miles?

But what is more to be feared than every other apprehension from this settlement of the French on the Mississippi, is their intercourse with the subjects of Spain. Might they not succeed in their encroachments here, as well as they have done in Hispaniola? We know what great profits they receive from this their surreptitious possession, and what encouragement it is to the public spirit for manufactures, of which it is a chief support; for from hence their commodities find their way to all South America. Our ancestors looked with contempt on the settlement of a few buccaniers on a spot neglected by Spain, by reason of its barrenness and unwholesome situation; which by the bye, were exaggerated beyond measure, and yet it has been this very barren and unwholesome spot that has chiefly contributed to aggrandize the French power. Our notions of their settlement on the Mississippi were exactly similar; we laughed at a settlement in a country which we represented as barren, marshy, and unwholesome, and gave it all the odious epithets that
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