

both species as of their colour: they are vindictive, traitors, and equal enemies to the Blacks and Whites. As to men of colour, who are still more dangerous, it would probably be very advantageous to form them into a colony in some uninhabited part of the continent: this measure would free the colonies of those men, by whom they one day or other will be destroyed, and would abolish the intemperate conduct of the Whites towards their slaves, which is the ruin of society, and the principal cause of the small population of the countries they inhabit.

The conduct of the Spanish government towards the natives of Louisiana, has rendered the manner difficult with which the succeeding power should behave. Possessing sources of gold which seemed inexhaustible, this metal formed the basis of all their enterprises. If they desired war, they bought men, or if peace, it was procured by gold; if it was their interest to preserve harmony between two rival powers, the one that was in want of money was forced to renounce its claims. The chiefs of each nation annually received considerable presents for themselves and nation; and every savage going to a Spanish colony, received the same allowance as a soldier as long as he remained in it. In rigorous seasons and climates, they are clothed and provided with necessaries. Above eighty thousand francs are expended annually in these presents, by which the men in superior offices obtain their fortunes.

Of all European nations, none is better qualified to obtain the friendship of the nations near Louisiana than France. They have never forgotten that they were the first Whites that landed in their country, and that they first received from them guns and knives, (dangerous presents, but highly prized.) To obtain any thing from the savages, we must be kind, and at the same time severe in the administration of justice. If the Spanish government is at present despised by the nations with whom they trade, it is because, being too weak to be just, they have suffered the first murders committed on them to go unpunished.

Among the nations with whom it principally concerns the possessors of Louisiana to be on friendly terms, are the Sioux of the Savannahs: in the first place, because they are the most numerous nation of the North; secondly, being the best hunters they are of great advantage to commerce; and thirdly, being masters of the left bank of the Missouri, and the right of the Mississippi, they might intercept all communication with the tribes situated on the upper part of these rivers.

After the Sioux, the Osages are perhaps the most barbarous of all the nations frequented by the Whites in this part of the continent. The conduct displayed by some French governors