

ful prospect. Look up, you see the horizon clear and serene. Look down, you see nature all the year lavishing profusely her sweetest gifts, on the uncultivated plains. Ask those, Sir, who have been in Louisiana, they will give you the most pleasing ideas of the country and climate, we have had such accounts from the French *, whose

* Father Charlevoix remarking " what pleasure it must give to see " the " capital of this immense and beautiful country, increasing insensibly, and " to be able to say with the best grounded hopes that this wild and desert " place, at present almost entirely covered over with canes and trees, one day " become a large and rich colony", says, " these hopes are founded on the " situation of this city on the banks of a navigable river, at the distance " of thirty-three leagues from the sea, from which a vessel may come up " in twenty-four hours; on the fertility of its soil; on the mildness and " wholesomeness of the climate in thirty degrees north latitude; on the " industry of the inhabitants; on its neighbourhood to Mexico, the Ha- " vanna, the finest islands of America, and lastly to the English colonies." So that from hence it appears what large ideas the French entertain of this country; and that they do not always intend to live in amity with our colonies of Carolina and Georgia. But, to go on with our ghostly father. " Can there be any thing," says he, " more requisite to render a city flourish- " ing? Rome and Paris had not such considerable beginnings, were not " built under such happy auspices, and their founders met not with those " advantages on the Seine and the Tiber, which we have found on the " Mississippi, in comparison of which those two rivers are no more than " brooks." Charlevoix, vol. ii. p. 276.

A little farther, he says (p. 300 and 301) " In a word, I have met with " none who have been on the spot, who have spoken disadvantageously of " Louisiana, but three sorts of persons whose testimony can be of no great " weight: the first, are the sailors, who, from the road at the island of " Dauphiné, have been able to see nothing but that island covered with a " barren sand, and the coast of Biloxi still more sandy, and have suffered " themselves to be persuaded, that the entrance of the Mississippi is imprac- " ticable to vessels above a certain bulk; and, that the country is uninha- " bitable for fifty leagues up the river. They would have been of a very " different opinion, had they had penetration enough to distrust those per-
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