

their countrymen in Louisiana, can we flatter ourselves, that they will not endeavour to improve it? And that there will be such prospect is indisputable. Many rivers afford a communication from Louisiana with the Great Lakes all the way by water, except in some of them, small portages of a very few miles in the whole.

As I have said before, the cession of Canada can only include the Lakes; and, though the lands to the south and west of those Lakes, are in fact particularized in the grants of some of our colonies, yet the French will claim a right to them, as appertaining to Louisiana: and I will venture to assert, Sir, that leave the French in possession of any part of the Mississippi, or even on the other side of that river, though the bounds between our colonies, and such settlement should be ever so clearly and accurately pointed out, that our colonies will never enjoy that security we seem so desirous of giving them, by retaining such an uncomfortable guest as Canada; and sacrificing every other object to that important consideration, if not at the expence of our whole senses, at least of the whole war. Would not the erecting forts by us, at any great distance from the Lakes, be to very little purpose, both in an offensive and defensive view, and whether so or not, would not the supporting garrisons in such forts be attended with the utmost expence and difficulties? And yet, Sir, though we retain Canada, we must not only be obliged to support forts in Canada, and about the Lakes; but, if we mean to secure the sole possession of the Lakes, and the adjacent country, which is ours of right, we must build forts at some hundred miles distance from those Lakes, particularly at the junction of the River Illinois with the Mississippi, the Miamis and Wabache, with the Ohio, and