

ment of the extent of the French commerce, and of the attachment of the people of the colonies to their sovereign's service.

It is just at the instant that a new mine has been discovered, when the culture of cotton, improved by experience, promises the planter the recompense of his toil, and the person who is concerned in fitting out vessels, cargoes to load them ; when the manufacture of indigo may vie with that of St. Dominico ; when the fur trade has been carried to the highest degree of perfection ; it is in these happy circumstances that certain enemies to their country, and broachers of a false system, have doubtless drawn in persons in public office to sacrifice the inhabitants of New Orleans. The court should not longer defer the relief of a people which is dear to it ; it should make known to those invested with royal authority the exhausted state to which this province would be reduced, if it was not for the time to come freed from the prohibitions, which would plunge it into irremediable ruin. What should we think of a physician, who being possessed of the panacea, or universal remedy, should wait for a plague in order to apply it ? It is by the trade to the Leeward Islands that the inhabitants of Louisiana find means every year to dispose of fourscore or a hundred loads of wood ; if this branch of trade was to be taken away, the colony would be deprived of an annual income of 300,000 livres at least, a sum which the work of the negroes and the application of the master produces alone, without any foreign assistance. According to the observation of a celebrated author, it would be better to lose a hundred thousand men in a great kingdom by an error in politics, than to be guilty of one which should stop the progress of agriculture and commerce. It is well known that those who present plans to obtain exclusive privileges, are never without plausible reasons to make them appear saving and advantageous, as well to the king as the public ; but the experience of all ages and all countries evidently demonstrates, that those who seek exclusions,

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