

The PREFACE.

present, whilst they are weak, and in the Infancy and Confusion of their Settlements in Louisiana, we have a much better Chance, and are in far happier Circumstances, to put in our Claim to, and dispute the Right and Possession of that and the other Land, above mention'd with them, than we shall be some Years hence, when they have augmented the Number of their Inhabitants, debauch'd the Natives to their Party, and further strengthen'd themselves, by securing, with Forts and Garrisons, the Passes of the Rivers, Lakes and Mountains, even tho' they should not have obtain'd any Advantage over the Spaniards, or enrich'd themselves with the Wealth of Mexico.

*I must acknowledge, that in Case the British Nation, should be so far infatuated, as not to assert their Right to this so noble, and to them so useful and necessary a Colony, and endeavour to regain the Possession thereof, or secure, at least, so much of it, as lies on the Back of our Plantations, as far Westward as the Meschacebe, it will be much more eligible and
for,*

*for the
Maste
ving s
dang
vigati
Tho'
of it t
soever,
Necess
yet re
AN
and P
keep a
as near
bove T
terest
ing P
to the
shall n
encroa
nies a
THE
at the
on the
jealou
are, t*