

A R R E T

O F T H E

SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF THE PROVINCE,

Referred to in page 16.

LOUIS, by the grace of God, king of France and of Navarre, to all those who shall see these presents, greeting, We make it known that the superior council of the province of Louisiana, having taken into consideration the humble representations made this day to that court by all the inhabitants, merchants, artificans, and others ; and these laying before it, that the relief of a people, to whom the council is a father ; the support of the laws, of which it is the depository and interpreter ; and the improvement of agriculture and commerce, of which it is the patron, are the motives of the representations of said inhabitants and merchants, &c. What important objects are these for the council ! Can it, after having duly considered them, give attention to any other, farther than as they contribute to favour these ? Let it for a few moments suspend its labours to attach itself to those subjects, which are now represented as most worthy of its attention and its ministry : and you, whose prosperity is the object of our most ardent wishes ; you who are to us what Sparta, Athens, and Rome were to their zealous citizens, O dear country ! suffer us to pay a lawful debt, by consecrating to you this weak tribute of our love, a tribute dictated by our hearts, which are seconded by an obedient hand, ready to perform what they inspire.

Seven millions of royal paper made all the currency of this colony, and the fortune of its citizens ; the total privation of this capital, the payment of which his majesty suspended by an edict of