

maritime code, and deliver the Universe from the tyranny founded by Great-Britain, which she maintains, and which never will be combatted with success, until the other powers, by uniting, will abridge her means, by transferring to nations more moderate a part of her commerce; and as there are no nations on the globe whose consumption offers to foreign manufactures resources as vast as those offered by the United States, if we consider with what rapidity this consumption increases, the means which America has of creating a navy when her political situation shall render it necessary, we shall be obliged to own that France must have very strong motives and very powerful, to induce her to abandon these advantages, and change a natural ally, from a warm friend into a suspicious and jealous neighbour, and perhaps hereafter into a declared enemy.

Experience has proved, that two nations could not be neighbours without being rival; and if this be true of two neighbouring nations, it may be said with still more truth of a colony formed by a great powerful nation, removed from the metropolis and of a people bordering on the territory of the other. The reason of this is plausible; where two nations are neighbours every thing passes under the inspection of the sovereign; the quarrels are as soon extinguished as kindled; but when the governor of a colony, calculating upon the protection of the metropolis, is guilty of an act of hostility, the wound gets gangrened before a physician can be called. The offended sovereign, who also thinks that the offender will be so much the more strongly supported, as his nation is more powerful, tries every means in order to anticipate on the hostilities which he dreads, uses reprisals, and both nations are at war before any explanation has taken place

If there be a situation in the world which may be attended with these consequences, it certainly is that of France, when she is in possession of New-Orleans. It is situated in such a manner as to block up the great passage towards the sea, from a great number of States and a very extensive population which increases rapidly,

A military government is about to be established on the Island. The General, proud, with reason, of the glory of his nation, will cast on every thing that surrounds him a look of superiority; commerce will be degraded; and merchants, subjected to the despotism of men who will seek in the laying up of riches, a recompence for their privations in the remote and insalubrious country whither they are sent. The colony presents no lawful means of growing rich except those (slow and progressive) of commerce and agriculture; ill suited means for soldiers. However vigilant the mother country, she will not prevent, at this distance, the vexations which may be exercised. On the other hand, the government of the United States will not be able, in a thousand instances, to restrain the petulance of the near inhabitants bordering on the limits of the Mississippi; to confine their vengeance wholly, and compel them to expect from diplomatic representation a slow justice. Hatred will take place between the two people; the bonds of friendship will be destroyed, and the government of the United States, which ever shares the sentiments of the people, will be forced, by its situation, to alter its political relations. Then, for the sake of guarding themselves against their old ally, for a pretended act of hostility, they will form a cautionary connexion with England, which will be sedulous in obtaining her alliance, and will excite her resentment against France; because in that alliance she will