

sacrifices, land on the most advantageous coasts, and gain over in their favour the chiefs of the government, who, under pretence of allowing them time to repair their ship, take no notice of the quality or quantity of the goods landed.

The traders bring from Mexico ingots and piastres, with which they load mules and horses, the trouble of conducting which, and the expences on the road, may be considered the principal part of their cost. The mules, as well as horses, are small, strong, and vigorous. The rich merchants only bring back ingots and piastres, the countries where they land producing nothing which can be sold with advantage. By the treaty of 1796 with the United States, the King of Spain engaged to give them a depôt at New Orleans for the merchandize destined to ascend the Mississippi, and for the overplus of the products of the Western States. This depôt, which was granted to them for three years, was to have been (if His Catholic Majesty was unwilling to continue it) replaced by some other, equally advantageous to both governments. Without respect to this part of the treaty, the president of the United States was informed, some time before my arrival, that not only the port remained shut, but that also a depôt was forbidden to the American merchants. This breach of faith could not fail to exasperate the Western States, which have no other channel for disposing of the overplus of their productions. It has since appeared, that this measure was not authorized by the Spanish government, but was the result of the desire of injuring, and of hatred to the French.

CHAP. XIX.

CONSIDERATIONS ON SLAVERY.—FREE NEGROES.—MULATTOES.—CONDUCT TO BE OBSERVED WITH THE NATIVES OF THE COUNTRY.—TERRITORIAL ADVANTAGES OF LOUISIANA FOR FRANCE.—THOSE WHICH IT OFFERS TO HER NAVY.—COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES.—COMMERCE IN SKINS.—MANNER OF REACHING THE LAKE OWINIPKE, OR WINNIPEG.

SLAVERY, the greatest of necessary evils, as well to those that endure it, as those that are obliged to employ the victims, exists in both the Louisianas; and must continue many succeeding ages in the south, if the government wish to encourage agriculture, which is their only resource. The Negroes alone can labour in these scorching climates; the Whites, notwithstanding all precaution, perish if they cultivate their own fields.