

This is but a small way for the French to go for gold and silver, when they go so constantly all over the continent of North America, from the mouth of the river *St. Lawrence* to the mouth of the *Mississipi*, upwards of 1000 leagues, only for a few beaver skins. And if they have not the same conveniencies of a water-carriage to *Mexico*, yet they have a much greater convenience perhaps for that purpose, from the great plenty of beasts of burden in all that country that leads to *Mexico*, which is full of horses wild in the woods; where they tell us, "We purchased a very fine horse, that would have been worth twenty pistoles in France, for an axe.*"

This is a grand object the French have in view, which makes them so intent upon securing those vast countries they call *Louisiana*; which not only leads to, but must command the adjacent *mines of Mexico*; if they do not abound equally with mines themselves, as there is no doubt but they do, although the French have run from one extream to another in searching for them. This makes them so impatient to get rid of the English power in

which separate that province from *Louisiana*, are but small hills, like the Apalachean mountains in the east, or rather lower, as we have from certain accounts.

* La Salle, *ibid.* p. 16.