

Virginia in 1742, to view these the western parts of that province; and altho' they only went down the *Ohio* and *Mississipi* to *New-Orleans*, they reported; that "they saw more " good land on the *Mississipi*, and its many large " branches, than they judge is in all the *Eng-* " *lish* colonies, as far as they are inhabited ;" as appears from the report of that government to the board of trade.

What makes this fertile country more eligible and valuable, is, that it appears both from its situation, and from the experience the *French* have had of it*, to be by far the most healthful of any in all these southern parts of *North America*; a thing of the last consequence in settling colonies, especially in those southern parts of *America*, which are in general very unhealthy. All the sea coasts of our colonies, to the southward of *Chesapeak* bay, or even of *New-York*, are low and flat, marshy and swampy, and very unhealthy on that account: and those on and about the bay of *Mexico*, and in *Florida*, are withal excessively hot and intemperate, so that white people are unfit for labour in them; by which all our southern co-

* See Vol. I. p. 201, 202.