

To what fatality is it owing that Louisiana alone sees sparks of this devouring fire again struck out? These are not panick terrors, and this the court will be convinced of, after perusing the sentence, an extract of which we have here the honour of presenting them with. We shall not scruple to affirm, that the carrying the plan which it contains into execution, would ruin the colony, by giving agriculture and commerce the most dangerous wounds. The inhabitants of Louisiana despair beforehand of the preservation of their country, if the privileges and exemptions which it has hitherto enjoyed are not continued; if the execution of this fatal decree, which has alarmed all hearts and filled them with consternation, is not prevented; if an ordonnance published in the name of his Catholic majesty at New Orleans on the 6th of September 1766, of which a copy is here subjoined, is not annulled, as illegal in all these points, and an obstruction to the increase of agriculture and commerce; if in fine the mild laws, under which the inhabitants have lived till now, were suffered to be violated. We should never forget the sublime discourse, which a renowned magistrate addresses to the legislators of the earth; "Are you, says he, desirous of abrogating any law, touch it with a trembling hand. Observe so many formalities, have recourse to so many enquiries, that the people may naturally conclude that the laws are sacred, since so many precautions are required in the abrogation of them."

We will likewise, without hesitation, affirm that it is a high mortification for Frenchmen to suffer all the rigours to which their commerce is subjected, whilst a foreign nation, their ambitious rival, openly carries on the trade of the colony, to the prejudice of the nation to which it belongs, which contributed to its establishment, and which is at the expence of it: we do not fear that it will be objected, that the French alone are not able to supply the continent with all the commodities which they want; a loan of seven millions, which the inhabitants of Louisiana have made the king since the year 1758 to 1763, will be an eternal monu-