

made respecting the use of those lakes. The *Mississippi* at certain seasons riseth high, having by its overflowings formed the *Iberville*, which through the want of water becomes useless when the *Mississippi* at other seasons subsides; and, according to good information lately received, the best of the several mouths of the *Mississippi* is so shallow, with a hard sand at the bottom, as to be impassable by any ship of war, or merchant ship of burthen. Nature having thus far bar'd the use of this great river, by leaving to the *French* the isle of *Orleans*, with the lower part of the river lying between that island and the opposite shore, and extending above 150 miles, we have trusted to *French* power to secure to us the use of this part of the river, which is apparently necessary to our beneficial use of the rest. Colonies may be planted on the eastern banks of the river, or other interior lands, and protected at great expense; but without an exchange of our manufactures for their raw materials, or other commerce, they will be a loss instead of a benefit to this kingdom; wherefore the navigation of the river being so difficult and precarious, and the protection of the unprofitable settlements which might be made in the vast country lying to the eastward of it being so difficult and expensive, it is left to others to find out, if they can, the great value of the whole. The *Mississippi* formerly served as a bubble to the *French*, and seems to have since served as a bubble to our ministers, and to us. By their proceeding relative to the cod-fishery they bruised the head of our *American* empire in the east, and by leaving the isle of *Orleans* to the *French* they fixed a thorn in the foot of our empire in the west, instead of plucking it out.

Before quitting the continent, let us observe that the port of *Mobile* will not admit our ships of war sufficient for
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