

building two forts at this Pass, one on each side of the river, to prevent the enterprises of any enemies ; for although the forts are only enclosures of stockades and a defence against small arms, the batteries on each side, which are of ten twelve-pounders, are more than sufficient to stop the progress of any vessel, as there is no possibility of mooring nor of making a vessel fast on shore : the impossibility of mooring has been before accounted for by the description given of the bed of the river. The going on shore is equally impossible, as the forts are on points of land, which are bounded by the river on one side and by swamps on the other, so that any attacks against them must prove unsuccessful. Such is the situation of these forts, which might besides receive continual reinforcements from the inhabitants in their neighbourhood, and from New Orleans, which is but seventeen miles distant. The authors who have wrote concerning Louisiana have given many different reasons for this place being called the *Detour des Anglois* ; I shall give that which appears the most probable.

The officers who had been sent to reconoitre the Mississippi, and to report the properest place to build the capital of Louisiana on, in their return to Mobile, going down the river, saw an English brig made fast to the shore, which curiosity had induced to go thus far up, and was waiting for a fair wind to proceed on further discoveries. The plantations and the well-built houses on each side the river afford a very pleasing and agreeable prospect, which continues till we arrive at New Orleans ; and this, with a tolerable fair wind, is an affair of about four hours.