

four hours, often destroys the finest crop, has powerfully contributed to make its cultivation cease in Louisiana.

This culture has been replaced in all the low parts of the colony by that of sugar, whose easy sale insures to the inhabitants a more certain and not less profitable revenue. During the dreadful troubles that depopulated St. Domingo, the dispersed inhabitants sought in all parts means of escaping the misery which pursued them. Some thought that Lower Louisiana, where no trials of cultivating sugar had been made, would produce it in abundance, and that the climate, although subject to sharp frosts, would, however, permit them to manufacture it with advantage.

The sugar manufactured there is good, but inferior to that of the more southern colonies. The reason is, that the canes, instead of being ripened by heat, are forced by the white frosts, which never fail to take place in December. These frosts have two inconveniencies; first, to diminish the quality of the canes, which cannot remain more than nine months in the ground; the second, to destroy the crop, when too early.

Among the natural productions of Southern Louisiana, I must particularly notice the wax-tree. Although it has never yet been much attended to, it cannot be doubted, that the wax will become an important article of commerce. A French chemist, who had resided for many years at New York, discovered a simple and cheap process to render it as white as that of bees. The approbation which he received from the United States, must add to the value of this tree, and the propagation of it in all parts of America where the climate is favourable.

CHAP. XVIII.

ARRIVAL AT NEW ORLEANS.—LA SALLE.—IBERVILLE.—
ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ORLEANS.—CESSION OF LOU-
ISIANA TO M. DE CROZAT.—ABANDONED TO SPAIN.
—ORELLI.—BUILDINGS, POPULATION, AND POLICE OF
NEW ORLEANS.—GOVERNMENT, MANNERS, AND CUS-
TOMS OF THE INHABITANTS.—COMMERCE OF ARTI-
CLES OF CONSUMPTION.—TAXES IMPOSED ON LOUISI-
ANA.—ENUMERATION OF THE ARTICLES ON WHICH
THEY ARE AND OUGHT TO BE LAID.—DEFICIENCY EX-
PERIENCED ANNUALLY BY THE SPANISH GOVERN-
MENT.—CONTRABAND COMMERCE.—TREATY WITH
THE UNITED STATES.

NEW Orleans, at which I arrived in six weeks, does not merit a favourable description. All that can be said in defence